

Israel threatens Hizbollah

MARJAYOUN (AP) — While staging military manoeuvres with its allies in southern Lebanon, Israel on Tuesday threatened Hizbollah guerrillas with retaliation for a recent rocket attack on northern Israel. On March 31, Hizbollah guerrillas fired missiles across the border after an Israeli helicopter ambushed killed a senior Hizbollah official. One Israeli was killed and nine others wounded in the missile barrage. After the attack Hizbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah warned that the group will rocket northern Israel again if Israeli forces launch a large-scale attack on South Lebanon. "If he uses violence, we will respond in the same caliber," said Uri Lubrani, Israel's top coordinator of policy in Lebanon, who attended the manoeuvres in an Israeli-occupied border strip. However, he dismissed Seith Nasrallah's threat with an Arabic proverb: "There are no customs duties on talks." But when asked why Israel has not retaliated for the rocket attacks, Mr. Lubrani said: "The account will be settled and we will choose where and when." Hizbollah said Tuesday two of its guerrillas were killed in fighting with Israeli-backed militiamen in South Lebanon.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Cabinet authorises tourism measures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers on Tuesday decided to authorise the minister of tourism and antiquities to take the necessary measures to meet the increasing demand for tourist buses. In its regular meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, the Cabinet also allowed the minister to rent tourist buses from abroad for a limited period until new tourist transporting companies are established in accordance with a recent Cabinet-approved statute. The Council of Ministers also named Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb to head the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Jordanian-Bahraini joint committee in Manama on April 15-18 and another delegation which will represent the Kingdom in the meetings of the Jordanian-Omani joint committee to be held in Muscat May 2. The council also approved the appointment of Professor Bashar Abdul Hadi of the University of Jordan, Professor Yasser Al Adwan of Yarmouk University and Director of the Industrial Development Bank Rajab Al Saad as members of the Administrative Development Council.

Volume 19 Number 5891

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1995, THU ALQ'EDAH 12, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Qadhafi meets Egyptian envoy

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi met Egypt's Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif on Tuesday and received a message from President Hosni Mubarak. Libya's official news agency JANA reported. Officials in Cairo have said Mr. Sharif would brief Colonel Qadhafi on Mr. Mubarak's talks in the United States last week on the U.N. sanctions against Libya in force since 1992 in connection with the Lockerbie bombing. The visit by Mr. Sharif came a week after Col. Qadhafi announced his plan to break the air traffic embargo by sending pilgrims on direct flights to Mecca to Saudi Arabia for the annual Haj in May.

Iran: U.S. loser if sanctions tightened

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's president warned Tuesday that the United States will suffer if it tightens economic sanctions against his country, the Islamic Republic Agency reported. The state-run agency quoted Hashemi Rafsanjani as denying oil is crucial for Iran's economy. "The United States will be the main loser if it makes any adventurous move and bans the purchase of oil from Iran," he said. Mr. Rafsanjani, speaking at a religious shrine at the holy city of Mashad, claimed that Washington was "angry with Iran because the country has achieved its economic independence and a new civilisation has been created in Iran."

Chirac widens lead

PARIS (AFP) — French presidential favourite Jacques Chirac has widened his lead over fellow Gaullist rival Edouard Balladur ahead of presidential elections 12 days away, two new polls said Tuesday. They seemed to show that Prime Minister Balladur's attempts to revive his fortunes by taking his campaign to the people have flopped while showing an improvement in the chances of socialist Lionel Jospin, who at one stage had seemed set to be overtaken by the premier. But in all cases, the polls gave Mr. Chirac as victor in the May 7 run-off, whether against Mr. Jospin or Mr. Balladur.

Moroccan socialist leader ends exile

RABAT (R) — The leader of Morocco's main opposition party, the Socialist Union of Peoples Forces (USFP), has returned home after 18 months of self-imposed exile in France, a party spokesman said on Tuesday. Abdul Rahman Youssoufi resigned as leader of the USFP in September 1993 after the parliamentary elections which he alleged were fraudulent. The USFP took 56 of the 333 seats in the chamber of representatives. The USFP said after the two-stage elections that Mr. Youssoufi's resignation was "to protest against government fraud in the elections."

Shells rain on safe area of Gorazde

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Nine to 12 shells slammed into Gorazde town, a U.N.-declared safe area, Tuesday evening shortly after 7 p.m. (1700 GMT), U.N. Protection Force spokesman Herve Gourmelon said here, citing initial reports. Bosnian radio said 17 large caliber shells hit the centre of town, in the government-held eastern enclave. The attack on Gorazde follows weekend shelling by the Serbs of Sarajevo, another of Bosnia's six declared safe areas, in which two women were killed and at least seven people wounded. The U.N. Bosnia Force commander, General Rupert Smith, Monday warned the Serbs of possible North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) air strikes in case of renewed attacks on the city. Serbs shelled Gorazde town on March 25.

Arafat accuses Israel of fuelling civil war among Palestinians

PNA police continue crackdown, say all militants will be disarmed

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat accused Israel of provoking a Palestinian civil war Tuesday by allowing weapons to be smuggled to militants in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Mr. Arafat's charge came as Palestinian police arrested dozens of suspected militants in Gaza in a two-day sweep. Followers of the militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad carried out two suicide attacks outside Jewish settlements Sunday that killed eight people. "Occupation has opened a market for the sale of arms in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel's aim from this is to light the fuse to a Palestinian civil war," Mr. Arafat said. Mr. Arafat also blamed the unrest in the Gaza Strip on poor economic conditions and chided donor countries

for not coming through with promised aid to the Palestinian authority. "The solution is not one of security, but it is a political which necessitates economic stimulation," he said in remarks carried by Egypt's Middle East News Agency. The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was promised \$2.4 billion in aid over five years, but only a fraction has arrived. Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Arafat assured Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that Palestinian troops could disarm militants. Neither leader spoke to reporters after the two-hour meeting. But Osama Al Baz, Mr. Mubarak's chief political adviser, said Mr. Arafat outlined his plan to disarm Hamas and Islamic Jihad. "He said that the Palestinian Authority is capable of meeting the security chal-

lenges," said Dr. Baz, who attended the meeting. "He expressed willingness to do all that they can in order to confiscate arms and to tighten controls in this respect." Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli negotiators, meanwhile, met for a second day in Cairo on Tuesday for a council to run autonomous areas in Gaza and the West Bank. The talks have snagged on the size and duties of the council. But Al Baz said Palestinian negotiators "seem to be confident the current round will witness some tangible progress in the direction of facilitating holding of elections." Yoel Singer, the chief Israeli delegate in the Cairo talks, said there was no breakthrough, although the two sides made progress.

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Ekeus report quells hope for end to Iraq embargo

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.N. officials have dashed Iraqi hopes for a speedy end to sanctions on oil exports, saying all signs pointed to an undisclosed germ warfare programme. Advance copies of a 40-page report by Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, were sent to Security Council members late on Monday. The detailed document is a six-month review of Iraq's arms capabilities. Mr. Ekeus dismissed Iraq's claim that it had imported large quantities of biological materials for hospital laboratories. He also revealed larger amounts than in his previous reports. France, Russia and China are pushing for a lifting of the oil embargo, which is linked to disarmament under a 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution while sanctions on imports are tied to other demands.

But the new report delays such efforts. Instead the United States, Britain and Argentina want Iraq to sell limited quantities of oil for humanitarian goods under U.N. supervision. But this resolution, not accepted by Iraq, will not be adopted within the next week because France has put forward amendments that will take time to negotiate. In 1988, Iraq alone imported nearly 39 tonnes of "complex growth media" in which bacteria or viruses are grown, while the country's total hospital consumption of such material was less than 200 kilograms per year, the report said. The commission said it suspected additional purchases in 1989 and 1990. Of the 39 tonnes bought in 1988 only 22 had been accounted for and 17 were still missing. Ten tonnes of growth media are sufficient to make one tonne of biological warfare agents.

"This importation of media by types, quantities and packaging is grossly out of proportion to Iraq's stated requirements for hospital use," the report said. The report also implicitly disputed U.S. claims that Iraq was rebuilding its chemical and ballistic missile industries under the noses of U.N. inspectors, allegations diplomats say are undercutting Mr. Ekeus' work. Other key areas include: — Nuclear: The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency will release a report shortly saying it will look into documents obtained by the Sunday Times of London that allege a hidden nuclear programme, diplomats said. Previous IAEA reports said the agency destroyed all nuclear materials. — Ballistic missiles: The Ekeus report said Iraq had imported 819 Scuds, which

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Nabulsi says Audit Bureau scrutiny of CBJ not feasible

Governor hopes Cabinet will come up with special CBJ auditing mechanism

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi has expressed disappointment over moves to bring the CBJ under Audit Bureau control and expressed hope that the government would find a formula that would defend the bank's autonomy and ensure that its capital accounts and operations are not adversely affected.



Mohammad Nabulsi

In his first public comment on the issue after a high-level legislative committee ruled eight-to-one last week that the CBJ should come under the auditing procedures of the Audit Bureau, Dr. Nabulsi also said that his desire to quit the job for personal reasons were "emphasised and accelerated" by the move. The very idea of the CBJ accounts being audited by the Audit Bureau, said Dr. Nabulsi, "is very much against my principles, against my thinking of the efficient

members as well as senior government officials against the move, which, he said, made little logic. "I am fully convinced that this is neither in the interests of the country nor in the interests of the Central Bank," he told the Jordan Times in an interview on Monday. "My convictions in this respect are very, very strong," Dr. Nabulsi said. "I don't think that the audit (of CBJ books) by the Audit Bureau is practically feasible because of the kind of the operations that the Central Bank carries out, in controlling credit, issuing currency etc., cannot, by their very nature, be subject to auditing." Furthermore, he said, the CBJ has "one of the best, perhaps the best, internal auditing department among all the government agencies and institutions." "We have a kind of model system for auditing, internally and externally," he said.

(Continued on page 2)

Regent, marking RSS anniversary, urges shift from services to production

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday called for close focus on developing Jordan's industry and agriculture with the aim of achieving self-reliance and said the Kingdom's priority was to build and develop itself by the year 2005.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday addresses a gathering at the Royal Scientific Society (Petra photo)

Addressing a gathering of scholars and academicians marking the 25th anniversary of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Regent also called for closer attention to be paid to Jordan's youth since they represent the Kingdom's hopes. The Regent said Jordan should move towards increased local production rather than concentrating on providing services. The Crown Prince said intellect could not be broadened through empty slogans and statements but through giving them meaning and content. Prince Hassan expressed hope that the institutions of higher education in Jordan could serve as a basis for a national plan for science and production. He also emphasised the need to have clear-cut plans to develop Jordan's human resources and train them to meet the requirements of the era.

Science and technology should be integral parts of higher education, he said. The Crown Prince underlined the role of universities, societies and clubs could play in serving local communities and encouraging cooperation and the spirit of teamwork. Noting that 70 per cent of Jordan's population were below the age of 25 years, the Regent also emphasised the need to foster dialogue among the country's youth. The Regent expressed hope that Jordan's experts in planning and sciences would be successful in turning the Kingdom into the focal point for investment in the Middle East. The Crown Prince said Jordan, which has signed a peace treaty with Israel, was not seeking closer ties with Israel or to depend solely on the U.S. and welcomes regional cooperation with Arab and Muslim countries. The Regent noted that there is a major gap between the level of incomes of 130 million Arabs and seven million Israelis and said that if the conditions remain as they are today then the Israeli per capita income would be 17 times that of the Arab citizen. Prince Hassan paid tribute to all those who work at the RSS's 35 laboratories and

other institutions and called for adherence to their warnings and standards and specifications. RSS President Hani Mulqi also addressed the ceremony, which was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, the RSS board of trustees, former society presidents and other invited guests. Dr. Mulqi thanked His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan for their support of the society. He said the assets of the society by the end of 1994 totalled JD 22 million compared with JD 500,000 in 1972. He said the number of the society's personnel in 1994 stood at 600 compared with 142 in 1972. The society, Dr. Mulqi said, has seven specialised technical centres while in 1972 it had only two. The

revenues of the society in 1994 were JD 6 million compared to JD 500,000 in 1972, he said. Anton Rahlan, the society's first president, delivered an address in which he commended the King's and the Crown Prince's efforts to establish and develop the society. He said the RSS had achieved glorious success during the past 25 years. Another address was delivered by Munther Haddadin on behalf of veteran RSS employees. The ceremony was attended by Acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, the Crown Prince's private advisor Mohammad Saqaf, several members of the board of trustees of the Higher Education Council, senators, deputies, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other officials.

Efforts in top gear to end university feud

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Efforts to solve the dispute between the two parties involved in Wednesday's clashes at the University of Jordan continued Tuesday and a member of the Parliament and a former governor of Salt started their own bids at mediation. Deputy Ali Shati, (Balqa) met with the university president, Fawzi Ghareibeh, and was briefed by him on the latest results of the university's enquiry. Mr. Shati said that he was pursuing the issue on a personal level and that he would inform Parliament of developments.

The female student was from Tafleeh and she suffered some fractures and bruises as a result. Circassian sources contended meanwhile that the representatives of the Salt community were dragging their feet in as far as reconciliation efforts were concerned for purely political reasons. "There are political motives behind the issue since municipal elections in Salt town are getting close and some individuals are trying to benefit from the opportunity that has presented itself, especially in terms of currying favour with the government," one Circassian source asserted. "This can also be evident in the way the media have been manipulated by the other side," the source added.

Iraq invites Inonu for talks on Kurds

ANKARA (Agencies) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahaf has invited Turkish counterpart Erdal Inonu to Baghdad, Iraqi Ambassador Raffi Dahham Midjel Al Tikriti said here Tuesday following a meeting with Mr. Inonu. Mr. Tikriti said his meeting with Mr. Inonu touched on bilateral relations and added he was optimistic about future links "despite several exceptional developments," an allusion to the Turkish military operation begun March 20 in northern Iraq to weed out Iraq-based separatist Kurdish rebels.

its people feel like full citizens. "The United States understand Turkey's needs to deal firmly with the PKK, which is a vicious terrorist organisation, but at the same time we attach great importance to the assurances of the Turkish government that the operations will be limited in scope and duration," Mr. Talbott told an audience at the prestigious Bilkent University here. After initial support, the United States toughened its stand on the Turkish operation.

Washington has also spelled out a new position regarding the future of Kurds. The U.S. State Department said on Monday that the United States opposes establishment of an independent state for ethnic Kurds but autonomy or another system of self-government might eventually be negotiated in states where Kurdish communities live. In the past, Turkey has firmly opposed such scenarios. Mr. Talbott said nations should ensure that "all the citizens of a state whatever their nationality, their religion or language feel themselves to be full citizens. If a state can meet that standard then it is much less likely to have a problem with secessionist terrorists."

Turkey has 12 million Kurds. They are banned from using their language in broadcast or education. Meanwhile Turkish troops backed by air power have killed some 70 Kurdish rebels in the last three days of a big operation in the eastern province of Tunceli, army officials said. "We have killed about 70 PKK guerrillas and lost three soldiers in Alibogazi Valley," said an army official in Tunceli. Turkish authorities earlier said the Tunceli sweep was on a par with their cross-border anti-PKK drive in northern Iraq.

The official Iraqi press run commentary and editorials blasting Turkey for talks with the Iraqi Kurdish rebel leaders and continued military presence in northern Iraq. Babel, a newspaper published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, urged Turkey in a front-page editorial to learn from the lessons of history as Iraq was "and will always remain key to (its) collapse." A top U.S. envoy meanwhile urged Turkey to use political measures, not force, to solve its ethnic Kurdish problem. U.S. Deputy Secretary of state Strobe Talbott reiterated Washington's expectations that the Turkish military incursion in northern Iraq be limited. And he said it was each state's duty to make all

According to one student, the situation at the university was calm. Police in civilian clothes continued surveillance on campus. Police vans were parked near the main gate. Six days after the clashes, the situation at the university was calm. Police in civilian clothes continued surveillance on campus. Police vans were parked near the main gate. According to one student,

Expert says Palestinians need help in marketing

Aid channelled to wrong priorities; opening markets, transport access more important

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The economy of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip stands little chance of improvement without the outside world opening up markets for their products and allow access for those products to reach the markets, says an American businessman who has been working with the Palestinians for the past five years.

Leo Kramer, who has also been trying to market Palestinian produce in the West, said he believed that the Palestinians were "very capable and competent" to develop their economy, but are handicapped by geographical problems and world apathy on the "right" issues that help the Palestinians.

Mr. Kramer is also bitter that the international community which eagerly welcomed the breakthrough in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and embraced the Oslo accords has not done enough to help the Palestinians.

"The number of people who have opened up markets for the Palestinians is too limited," Mr. Kramer said in an interview during a recent visit to Jordan. "The opportunities to sell abroad is too limited."

The U.S., the main player behind efforts to help the Palestinian economy through investment and business, "is now, two years later, studying whether Palestinian products can enter the American market," said Mr. Kramer. It was an apparent reference to a recent announcement that the U.S. would grant preferential treatment to Palestinian products under the General System of Preferences trade accord.

"We are two years late," he said. "And therefore they did not have a market in the U.S. to sell their goods. That is just one example..."

"All those meetings on investments and all that... nothing is going to happen until someone specifically guarantees that the material will move from the plant, from a farm, from a factory in Gaza," he said. "That has not happened."

If anything, said Mr. Kramer, the donor community

is attaching unreasonable expectations to the performance of the Palestinians and blaming them "even before they got a chance to start," and the aid being sent to the self-rule territories is spent on wrong priorities.

"There are so many studies in the Gaza Strip, such as a small territory, that make one wonder what is there so much to study about?"

In Mr. Kramer's opinion, the aid would have helped better if it "was dropped in \$100 bills from a helicopter" over Gaza and the West Bank.

The businessman cited the \$500 million that the U.S. pledged as aid to the Palestinians as part of international assistance totalling \$2.4 billion shortly after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed their autonomy agreement.

"Then someone suggested it should be spread over five years, then someone said let us spend \$125 million on OPIC (Overseas Private Investment Corporation) and then someone said let us spend \$75 million on studies," he said.

That meant the American aid to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was brought down to \$300 million, he said, adding that Washington's regular annual contribution of \$70 million to the budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) also came from the \$500 million pledge.

In any case, he said, "money is not the main factor here. What matters is whether the Palestinians have an opportunity to market their products."

"Too much time and effort are spent on blaming people, something wrong with the PLO... something wrong with the PNA," said Mr. Kramer.

"Each person who does that should ask: What have they done to open their market for the Palestinians? To give them 'opportunities'?" added the businessman, a member of Builders of Peace, a committee put together by U.S. Vice President Al Gore to help develop the Palestinian economy.

Mr. Kramer also called on Jordan, Israel and Egypt to

open up their land, sea and air routes open for Palestinian products to pass.

"Before you can expect investment, you must guarantee that for what you produce there is a market and you can deliver the product," he said. "If you cannot deliver the product, why should anyone invest?"

"There is no sense in talking about investment if there is no place for you to sell your product," he emphasised. "You have to open up your market. There is nothing more important than that."

"Then you have to make sure that the transport system works. The Palestinians have no port, no airport. Israel, Jordan and Egypt must guarantee that goods flowing out of Gaza and the West Bank will reach the outside world... they must guarantee it. They must make it happen. They must prove it is doable."

"The problem is not with the Palestinians," he asserted. "They cannot open Egypt's Al Arish airport, they cannot open the Amman airport, they cannot open the Israeli airport. Others must do that for them. They must make the ports available to the Palestinians."

Mr. Kramer rejected international criticism of what many see as the efficiency of the PNA. "Civil servants don't create or destroy an economy," he said. "How long did it take the U.S. to create a civil service? One year, two years...? Now we say to the Palestinians, you have been there a year and half, and why don't you have a great civil service?"

"The problem is that the perception is wrong," said the businessman. "The civil servants of the PNA... have a lot to learn, lot of get together, a lot of do. That's exactly what the donor nations were supposed to give, but they did not."

"It is a new country, it is a small country, there is not tax base, no facilities, no resources... and all the smart people, the rich people, intelligent people are saying: Oh it is their fault, they failed," said Mr. Kramer. But the fact is, he said, "they did not have a chance to start."

Culture and education

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan on Tuesday stood in for her father His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to chair a meeting at the Royal Court for members of the Binational Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange to follow up on ideas and suggestions made by Prince Hassan on cultural activities in Jordan and cultural and educational exchange with the United States.

The Crown Prince's suggestions include meetings between Fulbright graduates and Jordanian students and scholars benefitting from the commission's activities and services in addition to specialised meetings covering such areas as human and commercial laws and comparable studies on religions.



The commission's office was opened in Amman in December in accordance with a cooperation agreement signed by Jordan and the U.S. in 1993.

The Binational Fulbright Commission is a non-profit organisation offering scholarships to students and teachers from both countries.

Jews in Jerusalem decline in number

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Despite decades of exerted effort to bolster the Jewish presence in Jerusalem, the proportion of Arabs in the city is rising and they will constitute about a third of its population in 15 years, a study showed Tuesday.

The annual survey of the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies said Jews are currently 71.7 per cent of the city's 567,200 residents, compared to 74.2 per cent when its eastern half was occupied in 1967.

The figures were only up to the end of 1993, however. The survey predicted that because of constant Jewish emigration from the city and a high Arab birthrate, the number of non-Jews in Jerusalem would reach about 250,000 in the year 2010, climbing to 31 per cent of the projected total of 817,500.

"There will be conflict," said Ehud Olmert, the Israeli mayor of the city, commenting on the findings. "Jerusalem is a city of conflict. But I think that these conflicts will be manageable, controllable."

The findings were especially striking in view of Israel's attempts to limit the non-Jewish population in the city, which is the main sticking point of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Sarah Kamiker, a liberal city councilwoman, said building for Arabs has been restricted for years so their part in the city would not rise above 28 per cent. Meanwhile, 65,700 apartments have been built or approved for Jews in East Jerusalem since 1967.

The survey said 77 per cent of the 2,720 apartments built in Jerusalem in 1993 were in Pisgat Ze'ev, a Jewish neighbourhood in the eastern sector. As a consequence, Jews now constituted a majority of 52 per cent even in East Jerusalem, it said.

Although it did not give numbers, previous recent surveys said 160,000 Jews live there compared to 155,000 Arabs.

The findings were explained by a difference in birthrates — 26.3 births annually per 1,000 for Jews, compared to 35.4 per 1,000

for non-Jews.

Also, the survey said, about 20,000 Jews left Jerusalem, which is the poorest of Israel's major cities in 1990-93. In that time about 43,000 immigrants, mostly former Soviet, settled there. New immigrants are now about 11 per cent of the Jews in the city.

The survey also showed that among Jerusalem's Jews, the share of the ultra-orthodox, who live by strict religious code and are frequently at odds with the secular majority, was rapidly rising. Their numbers were expected to double to 214,000 by 2010.

A top official who handles donations from abroad said rich Israelis should take after Jews abroad and give more to their own poor.

"Israelis have forgotten the essential words of charity or responsibility, of giving to the other," said Avraham Burg, the new head of the Jewish Agency that links Israeli and world Jews.

"There are so many Israelis of means. They have money. They have resour-

ces," Mr. Burg said.

Over \$340 million of the agency's \$500 million 1995 budget came from foreign donors.

Some Israelis, like Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, have said Israel no longer needed Jewish charity at all, since the country's per capita income of about \$14,000 is on par with many Western nations. There are also increasing charges that the Jewish Agency is a relic of Israel's past and no longer necessary.

But Mr. Burg, one of several Israeli reformers in their 40s who are gradually assuming leading positions, said there was still a role for the agency as long as it streamlined operations.

The agency deals with absorption of new immigrants, as well as sponsoring trips to Israel, education and rural development.

Mr. Burg said he found "not corruption but incompetence" in the agency since taking it over. He said the agency is tens of millions of dollars in debt as a result of mismanagement.

Ahmar says Saudi-Yemeni relations have improved

CAIRO (Agencies) — Yemen's parliamentary speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar said on Tuesday relations between his country and Saudi Arabia have improved since they started talks to solve a border dispute.

"Yemeni-Saudi talks are going on their way quickly and with steady, strong and truthful steps," Sheikh Ahmar told reporters after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"Relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia are as good as even before the Gulf war," he said.

Saudi-Yemeni ties took a turn for the worse after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, when Saudi Arabia expelled hundreds of thousands of Yemeni workers for what it said was Yemen's implicit support of the invasion.

A 60-year-old border problem has further strained relations, but a joint military

committee has been meeting to resolve differences that erupted into violence for months ago.

Riyadh and Sanaa signed a memorandum in February providing for committees to demarcate land and sea borders and prevent troop movements in the potentially oil-rich frontier area.

Sheikh Ahmar arrived in Cairo on Sunday for a week-long visit.

Abdullah Saleh is to visit Saudi Arabia next week for talks with King Fahd, government officials said in Sanaa.

The two leaders discussed implementation of the Saudi-Yemeni agreement to settle the border dispute during a telephone conversation Sunday, the officials said.

"Preparations are being made for the visit" to Saudi Arabia by Mr. Saleh, they added.

Somali kidnappers demand \$120,000 ransom for envoy

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali kidnappers demanded on Tuesday a ransom of \$120,000 from Ethiopia to secure the release of an Ethiopian diplomat seized in the Somali capital two days ago.

Somali businessman Osman Isse said in a statement the ransom amounted to "compensation" for property including cloth, tape recorders, watches and other items confiscated by Ethiopia.

Mr. Isse said demands for compensation received no reply so the group of businessmen whose goods were seized would hold the Ethiopian diplomat, Yaman Abdil, until receiving either their property back or \$120,000.

The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry on Monday demanded the unconditional release of Yaman, acting charge d'affaires at its embassy in Mogadishu who was seized

by five clan gunmen.

Mr. Yaman was one of only a few diplomats left in the Somali capital. He was seized following an Ethiopian initiative to reconcile Somalia's rival clans through talks with ethnic Somali clan chiefs from Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry said Mr. Yaman was abducted by members of a clan whose goods were recently confiscated by Ethiopian border guards as they were being smuggled into the Negele border area of Ethiopia.

"The diplomat was abducted as a means of ransom by the clan. There will be no compromise on this criminal act. Consequences for anything short of an unconditional release of the diplomat will be the kidnappers' responsibility," it added.

Nabulsi: Audit Bureau scrutiny not feasible

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The CBJ governor noted that in most countries where there is a central bank, special arrangements were in place to audit the accounts of the treasury as represented by the central bank.

"The Bank of England, the Federal Reserve, the Bundesbank, you name it, have absolutely rejected the normal routine kind of auditing work," he said. "This is a very important point in regard to the future of the Central Bank and its effectiveness."

"It certainly runs against our modern legislation and laws. Even if we had a legislation which throws a shadow on this, I think this legislation should be amended to allow the Central Bank to have a special auditing mechanism."

According to Dr. Nabulsi, the best mechanism, as has been the case now, is to have a private sector auditing firm

to check the accounts of the Central Bank rather than a state-run department like the Audit Bureau.

"The autonomy of the Central Bank, the transparency of its operations, and the need to separate the power of the Central Bank from the government or an executive authority to fulfil its mission in the best way it can would definitely necessitate that such an auditing is done by specialised private sector institutions," he said.

The CBJ law says that the auditing of the monetary body should be carried out by a specialised institution appointed by the Council of Ministers.

This practice has been in effect since the establishment of the Central Bank until the question was raised in Parliament last year, prompting the issue to be referred for legal

and constitutional interpretation.

Dr. Nabulsi noted that ruling by the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution — a panel of five judges and four members of the Upper House of Parliament — was now before the Council of Ministers.

"(Former Prime Minister) Mudar Badran, now a member of the Upper House, cast the only vote in the panel against the decision that the Central Bank should come under regular inspections by the Audit Bureau."

Asked whether he had any specific suggestions, the CBJ governor said: "I think the Council of Ministers will have a good look at it. They may find a way to implement a kind of Audit which would match and take all considerations into account."

He expressed hope that the Council of Ministers "will apply the principle of the Audit Bureau but in a very specialised manner, in the sense that there might be a

special channel. They might create a special channel between the Audit Bureau and the Central Bank..."

In Dr. Nabulsi's view, the administrative expenses — salaries, wages and other miscellaneous accounts of the Central Bank — could be audited by the Audit Bureau "rather than the overall investments, capital accounts... our foreign exchange positions abroad... or the expenses of issuing currency."

"Issuing currency is not something that is subject to an ordinary tender," he said. "We print our currency in the best printing presses in the world. (It) may cost more than the ordinary presses but at the same time secure special safeguards for the currency notes."

"We can definitely not go into auditing (what) we pay to banks in interest on their assets at the Central Bank..." he said.

"These operation, by their very nature, are untenable for ordinary, routine auditing."

Filipina says she killed her employer in self-defence

AL AIN (R) — A 16-year-old Filipina maid on Tuesday pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter of her employer, saying she acted in self-defence when he tried to rape her.

Mohammad Amin, acting as defence lawyer in this case, said he was challenging the charge because Islamic law says that "it is the duty of a woman to protect her honour up to the point of killing."

Sarah Balabagan, said by doctors and Philippines officials to have been only 16 at the time of the alleged offence, was reunited with her mother in the United Arab Emirates court on Tuesday.

Smiling softly, in black Muslim headscarf, she hugged her mother Baie through the bars of her court room cell shortly before her trial resumed behind closed doors.

Her parents travelled to UAE with a legal team and Manila government officials attending to ensure there is no repeat of the case of Flor Contemplacion, a Filipina maid who was hanged in Singapore for murder last month, sparking outrage.

"We are here to oversee that she gets a fair trial," said Filipino lawyer Jose Grapi-

on. It was the first meeting of mother and daughter since Sarah left the Philippines earlier in 1994 to work as a maid on what Manila officials say was a forged passport giving her age as 28 and provided by racketeers who entice underage women to work as maids abroad.

Sarah pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter last July of her UAE employer, named in court documents as UAE national Almas Mohammad Al Bahushi.

Mr. Amin said she faces a charge in Islamic Sharia law similar to manslaughter. The charge assumes there is no premeditation and the maximum penalty is life imprisonment.

He said he asked the court on Tuesday to release the teenager on bail but the request had not been granted. "We are optimistic Sarah will get a fair trial," he believed she is innocent because she wanted to protect her life, a Philippine embassy source said.

And health... "And that was what I was promised," he said. "Now, after this development... I have again expressed the wish to be relieved of my duties as soon as possible."

"This relief should come definitely before the end of this year. But that is the maximum as I said... I hope that would come sooner."

Embassy of India AMMAN

The Embassy of India regrets to announce with profound grief of the sad demise of **Mr. Morarji Desai**

former Prime Minister of India

on Monday, 10th April, 1995. A condolence book will remain open at the Embassy premises, Jabal Amman, 1st Circle, on Wednesday (12th April) and Thursday (13th April) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 771111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 The Filmstones
14:30 The Shaws
15:00 Breakdown: World
16:00 Movies, Games, and Videos
16:30 Tunes
17:00 Les Prince El La Sirene
17:30 Tarzita
18:00 News in French
19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
19:45 E-Me
20:00 The Marvellous Machine
20:30 G.P.
21:15 Berlin Break
22:00 News in English
22:30 Prim
23:00 Snowy River
23:10 Keeping Up Appearance

PRAYER TIMES

05:46 Fajr
07:07 (Sunrise) Dhuha
13:36 Dhuhr
17:12 Asr
20:06 Maghrib
21:27 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 810749
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624544
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church

Tel. 66757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 62366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church

Tel. 63651, Tel. 628343

Armenian Catholic Church

Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church

Tel. 773261

St. Ephraim Church

Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church

Tel. 625236

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation

Tel. 64195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Tel. 654932

The Church of Nazareth

Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman

Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly with winds north-westerly light to moderate, in Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 14/27
Dheir 14/21
Jordan Valley 12/25

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197

Dr. Raif Zaidoun 886885

Dr. Yama Abdul Salam 734072

Dr. Sa'id Ali 782265

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Aqema pharmacy 637055

Naimouk pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636741

Yusuf pharmacy 644545

Shamsan pharmacy 637661

Naimouk pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Shuqairi 246140

Al Oud pharmacy 1-1

ZARQA:

Dr. Raif Alalulh 954344

Khalif pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Fire Brigade 617101

Blind Bank 731321

Highway Police 633022

Traffic Police 636300

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 603800

Police Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 697467

Complaints 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information 121

Emergency assistance 121

Overseas Calls 110230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Home News

Minister opens dentistry conference highlighting drive to upgrade services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, acting Minister of Health Abdul Razzaq Ensour Tuesday opened the 13th Jordanian Dentistry Conference at the Al Hussein Youth City.

In his opening address, Dr. Ensour said that the Health Ministry was continually striving to upgrade dentistry services at its various centres.

This meeting provides a good opportunity for the delegates to exchange information and experience which will no doubt help improve the quality of dentistry services in general, said the minister.

President of the Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) Saeed Abu Meizar said that the various topics to be reviewed by the delegates deal with advanced techniques in dentistry services and dental surgery.



Acting Minister of Health Abdul Razzaq Ensour Tuesday opens the 13th Jordanian Dentistry conference (Petra photo)

Delegates from four United States universities and Germany will deliver lectures at seminars to be held on the sidelines of the three-day meeting, which is organised by the JDA and attended by dentists from Arab and foreign countries.

March produce exports hit 20,600 tonnes — AMO

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan last month exported 20,600 tonnes of fruits and vegetables worth about JD 4,964 million to foreign markets, according to the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

AMO sources said vegetables accounted for 96.6 per cent of the Kingdom's total agricultural exports and were sold for a total value of JD 4,728 million, while fruits made up only 3.4 per cent of such exports, sold for a total JD 235 million.

The sources said Lebanon

was the major importer of Jordanian produce, absorbing 51.5 per cent of the Kingdom's total agricultural exports, or about 10,633 tonnes, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) which imported 5,382 tonnes of produce, or 26.1 per cent of the total agricultural exports of the Kingdom.

They added that the Bahraini market was in third place, taking 2,702 tonnes of produce, or 13.1 per cent of the exports. Qatar imported 1,458 tonnes of produce and Saudi Arabia imported 71.3 tonnes.

The sources noted that the Kingdom's agricultural exports to other foreign markets totalled 395 tonnes which accounted for 1.9 per cent of total produce exports.

According to the sources, cucumbers accounted for 21 per cent of produce exports, with 4,332 tonnes, tomatoes 14.2 per cent with 2,937 tonnes, lettuce 13.1 with 2,708 tonnes, aubergines 10.1 per cent with 2,093 tonnes, squash 9.9 per cent with 2,054 tonnes, potatoes 8.6 per cent with 1,775 tonnes and beans 5.8 per cent with

1,196 tonnes.

The sources added that the Kingdom also exported 1,065 tonnes of pepper, 823 tonnes of cauliflower, 627 tonnes of broad beans, 594 tonnes of lemons, and 440 tonnes of other fruits and vegetables.

They said that last month's exports of fruits and vegetables reflected an increase of about 241.5 tonnes compared to the same month last year.

They also witnessed an increase of about 1,272 tonnes over the month of February, the sources noted.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

★ Film entitled "How Green is My Valley" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE & MUSIC

★ Lecture (in German) with music entitled "You der Apothose Gottes Zur Apothose des Menschen" by Dr. Werner Wagner at Goethe-Institut at 7:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

★ Seminar entitled "Crusader Wars — Lessons" with the participation of Dr. Abdul Jalil Abdul Madi, Dr. Shafiq Jasir, and Dr. Abila Al Zibdeh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Hadia Mu'asher at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of art by Ahmad Nu'wash at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ A collection of photos of Middle East doors by Julia Reinhold at the Gallery, off the main lobby, Inter-Continental Hotel.

★ Exhibition of art by Moroccan artist Farid Belkhaba at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

★ Exhibition of Palestinian embroidery at Goethe-Institut.

★ Exhibition of art by Yassin Atiyeh and Yassin Al Muhammadawi at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Ceramics exhibition by artist Samer Al Khaffaji at Umm Utheina Gallery.

★ Exhibition of art by William Golding at the British Council.

★ Exhibition of copper sculptures by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Judi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

★ Exhibition of graphic works by Rafiq Lahham at Darat Al Funun. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists.

★ Exhibition of art by Leo Rialp at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

★ Exhibition of prize-winning paintings by Czech students at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Hamoud Chantout at the Balqa' Art Gallery, Fuhes.

Regent calls for activating role of Social Security Corporation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday called for investing in Jordanian industrial cities which he said conform to international standards and specifications.

Addressing the Board of Directors of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) in a meeting held at the Royal Court, Prince Hassan said these industrial estates have become a source of hope and optimism in the Kingdom in view of their role in supporting the national economy by boosting exports.

"We should stress that the basic element of change is the human being," said Prince Hassan. He called for activating the role of the SSC so that the society will benefit from the required positive changes.

Jordan, he stressed, has always been seeking to develop and update its laws and regulations to better serve the development process.

He said talk about integrating the roles of the public and private sectors, especially at this time when Jordan is preparing to host an international economic conference and to embark on a dialogue with



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday addresses a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Social Security Corporation held at the Royal Court (Petra photo)

the European Union (EU), constitutes a move towards rehabilitating regional economies.

He noted that there was a momentum to make the national economic plans of the countries of the region similar to those in the international arena and to develop the region's societies.

Corporation Director General Safwan Tougan outlined at the meeting the SSC's plans and projects and its future aspirations. He

noted that the SSC's future role will be to invest funds at the national level.

Dr. Tougan also reviewed project proposals the corporation is studying and its plans to expand the social security base in the Kingdom and update the SSC bylaws to make them conform to the requirements of the coming stage.

He emphasised that the corporation cares for social dimensions and citizens' interests as well as making pro-

fits. Acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh said one of the national priorities now was to redraw plans to achieve the prosperity and development Jordan was seeking.

He underscored the importance of taking swift measures to tackle social security and health insurance issues.

Labour Minister Nader Abul Sha'ar also called for updating laws and dealing with the issue of unemployment.

Paediatricians to discuss children's rights

AMMAN (Petra) — Paediatricians from Jordan, other Arab and foreign countries today begin a three-day conference to discuss topics ranging from breast feeding to hereditary diseases at the University of Jordan.

Nearly 1,000 doctors expected to attend the conference will review working papers and listen to 37 lectures as well as take part in specialised seminars, said Abdul Karim Qudrah, president of the Jordanian Paediatricians Society.

He said that delegates from the United States, Britain, France, Canada and the Arab World will attend the meeting organised by the Jordanian Paediatricians Society in cooperation with the Federation of Arab Paediatricians associations.

Held under the theme "Towards Better Health Care for Children," the conference was expected to focus on the humanitarian side of childhood and will review child care services and problems in Jordan among the different topics on the agenda.

He said a specialised seminar on children's rights and child abuse will be held during the conference in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the University of Jordan.

Visiting U.S. governor, business team explore Mideast opportunities

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The governor of the U.S. state of Illinois Monday addressed Jordanian business leaders during a working business dinner at the Forte Grand Hotel saying he hoped to see increased business opportunities between the private sectors of Jordan and the U.S.

Governor Jim Edgar and a 20-member business delegation comprised of Arab and Jewish Americans from Illinois were on a two-week visit to the Middle East to promote trade between Illinois and Middle Eastern countries in light of the "new climate" in the region.

Calling Amman a "busy place," Gov. Edgar said, "We are here to talk economic development. I believe that all development comes from the private sector," he said.

"We see that Jordan is following this policy, and in the state of Illinois, we have been trying to follow this policy for the last four years."

"We hope our visit will lead to strong contacts between our business leaders and Jordan," he continued. "Everyone has commented during this trip on the hospitality of the Jordanians," he added. "You can be sure that this message will be taken back to our state."

Talat Othman, a member of the Illinois delegation, said that his company, Dearborn Financial, has been impressed by the opportunities offered in the Middle East and is already in the process of putting together a growth fund with the Pain Webber group which will be guaranteed by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) for \$50 million in Jordan and the Palestinian areas.

"We in Illinois hope to see a substantial increase in business opportunities encouraged by the U.S.'s support of the Jordanian economy," he said. "As for us, we see strong potential in the pharmaceutical, textile and tourism industries — these are areas which could be supported through the fund."

Prior to its two-day visit to Jordan, the delegation spent a week in Israel and autonomous Palestinian areas with officials and business leaders.

The governor quipped to his audience that "unfortunately as governor, I have no impact on foreign policy."

Nevertheless, he said he has been following developments in the region.

"My sense is that there is concern from both (Palestinian and Israeli) leaderships that people had great expectations for the short-term that aren't going to happen."

But he said, the U.S. Congress is beginning to realise the importance of abiding by its commitments in the region.

"In the U.S. we are going through a reassessment of how we spend money," he explained. "But our leaders are beginning to understand the need not to back away from commitments (in the Middle East) — which would jeopardise regional peace."

"I also believe that as a result of His Majesty King Hussein's meeting with congressional leaders, there will be heightened sensitivity to the importance of honouring U.S. commitments."

The Illinois delegation's next stop is Egypt where members will meet with Egyptian counterparts to explore further opportunities.

Gov. Edgar, 48, is a Republican serving his second gubernatorial term in Illinois. The mid-western state of Illinois is the home of the city of Chicago, a major U.S. business centre and the home of the Chicago Exchange, the U.S. commodities bourse.

Gov. Edgar and his delegation were hosted by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association.

During his brief visit to Amman he also met with Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb who brief him and the delegation on the local investment climate and preparations for the upcoming Amman economic summit.

ssy of India AMMAN

India regrets to inform the death of the late Minister of the Interior, Shri. B. J. Desai.

The Minister of the Interior, Shri. B. J. Desai, died on April 10, 1995.

His body will remain open at the Darat Al Funun, 12th April and 13th April, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

His funeral will be held on April 14, 1995, at 10 a.m. at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

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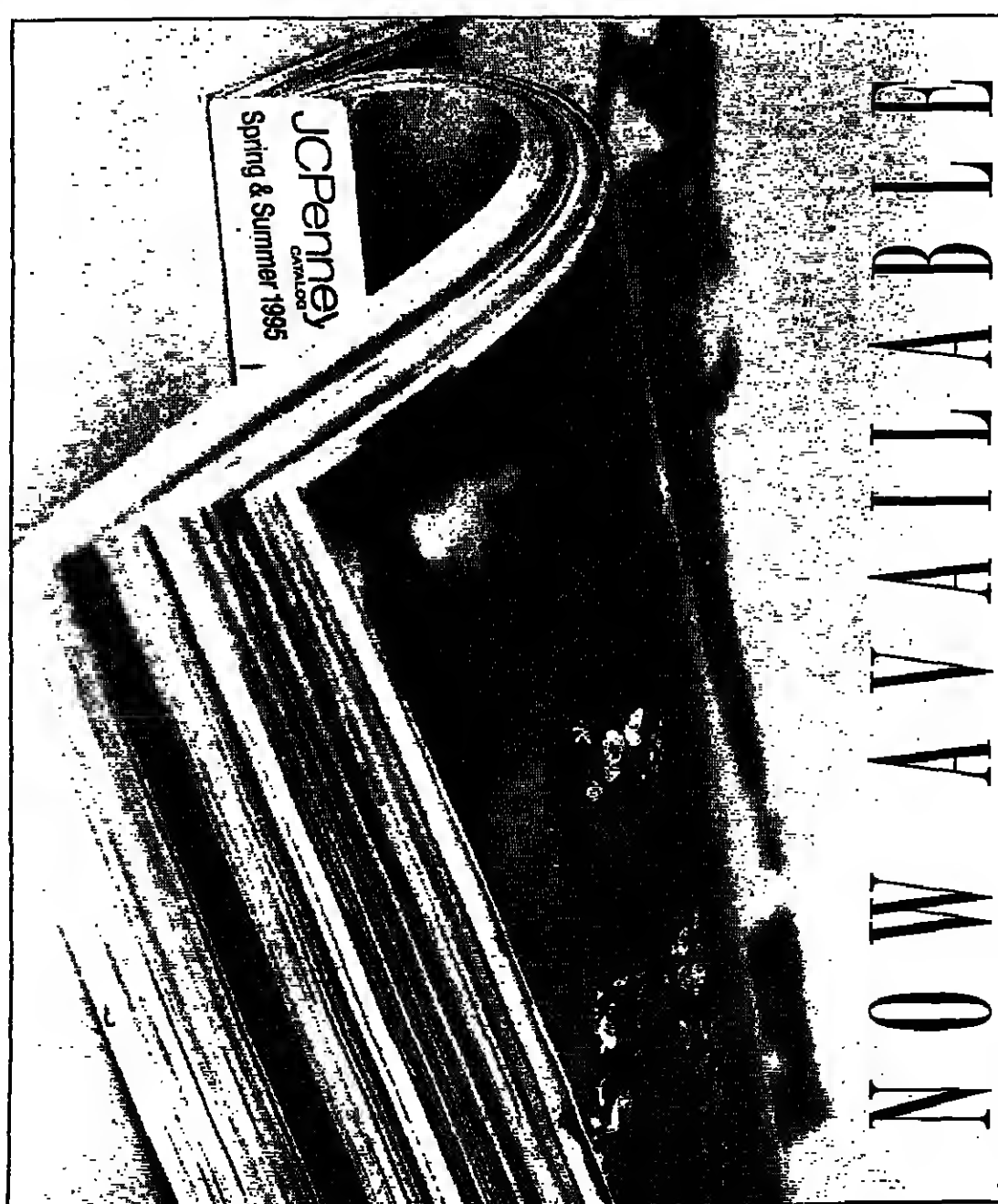
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Seoul says its reactor is no Trojan horse in North

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea Tuesday assured North Korea it would not use the landmark U.S.-North Korean nuclear deal as a "Trojan horse" to overthrow its system.

One day before the United States and North Korea are to resume talks on Pyongyang's nuclear-reactor dispute in Berlin, South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-myung said Washington would not offer a compromise on the terms of the deal.

Instead, the United States and its allies would "exercise patience and flexibility with a view to inducing changes on the part of North Korea," he told foreign correspondents in Seoul.

Clearly referring to some analysts' argument that Pyongyang might be worried about the possibility of Seoul trying to destroy the North Korean system, Mr. Gong said:

"(South) Korean reactors will not be, certainly not going to be, a Trojan horse."

North Korea has threatened to scrap the nuclear deal with the United States, designed to dismantle what the West believes is Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme, if it was forced to accept south Korean reactors.

"If the leadership in Pyongyang is indeed convinced about which way is in their best interest, we know for

sure that they could turn the Korean model reactors from a perceived 'Trojan horse' into a 'knight in shining armour'," Mr. Gong said.

"In the same way as the Rajin-Sonbong free economic and trade zone in North Korea would not necessarily become a Trojan horse, the Korean model reactor site may very well prove to be beneficial to the North," he added.

The North has allowed investment and relatively free business activities by foreigners in the Rajin-Sonbong area near the border with China and Russia which diplomats say would be isolated from the rest of the planned economy.

Mr. Gong said his government decided to play a central role in providing light-water reactors to North Korea in order to ease inter-Korean tension and to "lay a cornerstone" for economic cooperation across their tense border.

Seoul officials have said economic exchanges are the most effective way to restore severed North-South relations.

Washington says only South Korea can provide the reactors since it was the only one willing to shoulder the huge cost.

Under the nuclear deal reached in Geneva last October, Washington promised Pyongyang \$4.5 billion in

new light-water reactors and alternative energy supplies in return for a freeze and eventual removal of Pyongyang's existing nuclear programme.

Mr. Gong accused the Stalinist North of trying to drive a wedge between South Korea, the United States and Japan with its threat to walk away from the accord.

"I would like to emphasise once again that there can be no compromise on the issues of Korean model reactors and South Korea's central role in the provision of light-water reactors, a point the United States and Japan also agree on," he said.

Mr. Gong denied a local news report that North Korea was preparing to refuel the experimental reactor. He said he understood operations at the reactor had remained frozen although the North was carrying out some maintenance work which was allowed.

Meanwhile an influential U.S. senator said Monday if North Korea is trying to drive a wedge between the United States and South Korea, it is not succeeding.

Democrat Charles Robb of Virginia, wrapping up a low-key fact-finding mission, portrayed a united front between Seoul and Washington on implementing an agreement designed to dismantle the North's suspect nuclear programme.

In particular, Sen. Robb

told a news conference there is no difference in the most crucial sticking points of the accord signed last October: the source of substitute reactors for the North and the need for dialogue between the two Koreas.

U.S. and South Korean officials are adamant that the two replacement light-water reactors, which would produce far less weapons-grade plutonium than the North's existing graphite facilities, must come from South Korea.

It is the only country willing to pay most of the \$4 billion cost, but only if its reactor model is chosen.

Sen. Robb hedged when questioned about North Korea's threat to resume its nuclear programme, which it has frozen under the nuclear deal, if no contract on the reactors is signed by the April 21 target date in the nuclear accord.

"We're taking the position now that North Korea still is in compliance with the agreement and leave it at that," he said.

In Tokyo, the head of a U.N. agency said North Korea has been maintaining the freeze, which is being verified by inspectors from his organisation.

"The day-to-day work for verification works reasonably well," said Hans Blix, secretary general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Veteran Chinese leader dies at 90

BEIJING (R) — Veteran revolutionary leader Chen Yun has died after a seven-decade career in which he guided China's economy through radical leftist upheavals and sweeping market reforms, officials said Tuesday.

"Chen Yun died yesterday afternoon," a spokesman for the State Council, or cabinet, told Reuters in the first official confirmation of the death of China's most influential statesman after paramount leader Deng Xiaoping.

Mr. Chen, 90, died in a Beijing hospital Monday afternoon, Chinese sources said. He was believed to have been ill for some time with leukaemia.

A formal announcement of the death of the staunchly Communist elder, who joined the party soon after it was formed in the 1920s, would appear on the national evening television news, the spokesman said.

Mr. Chen's family was at his bedside in his final hours, and Chinese leaders had visited him in hospital Monday, Hong Kong's Ming Pao newspaper said.

Mr. Chen's career paralleled Mr. Deng's through a century of peasant uprisings and radical revolutionary movements, but the men developed differences over Mr. Deng's bullish embrace of market reforms since 1978.

Mr. Chen's death removed from the political scene a man who was at once one of Mr. Deng's chief rivals and closest colleagues.

However, his passing was not expected to have an immediate impact on a mounting power struggle among Mr. Deng's and Mr. Chen's



Picture dated Sept. 23, 1985 of Chen Yun delivering a speech during the Chinese National Communist Party meeting in Beijing (AFP photo)

successors amid rumours that Mr. Deng's health is also failing.

Western diplomats described Mr. Chen as Mr. Deng's alter-ego who urged caution where Mr. Deng raced headlong to abolish Stalinist style central planning and warned correctly of inflation when Mr. Deng rushed to free prices, but who above all remained loyal.

The elder revolutionary last appeared in public on state television in January 1994, greeting Chinese leaders in his home to mark the traditional Chinese Lunar New Year.

The guiding economic principles of the revolution—army who handled heavy industry under Chairman Mao Tse-tung were state planning and a carefully constrained private sector.

He is best known for his "bird cage" theory, which likens the Socialist market economy to a bird kept from flying away by the cage of state control.

Although shouted by Mr. Deng out of the Communist Party's Central Committee in 1987 and plagued by ill health, Mr. Chen wielded considerable authority into his 80s.

Nigerian opposition leader Abiola freed

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria's principal opposition leader, Moshod Abiola, who is facing trial for treason, has been released from prison, one of his wives said Tuesday.

Kadiratu Abiola told AFP she had received a telephone call in the morning from the federal capital Abuja to say that her Muslim millionaire husband, arrested last June 23, had been freed.

She refused to say who had phoned her, but stated that she considered the caller to be a highly credible source for the news. She had seen no trace of her husband by 1030 GMT.

Chief Abiola was arrested and charged with treason by the military junta of General Sani Abacha after the politician proclaimed himself head of state and the armed forces on June 11, the eve of the first anniversary of presidential elections he is believed comfortably to have won.

The poll was annulled by the military junta of the time led by General Ibrahim Babangida, who alleged there were irregularities though international observers had billed it free and fair.

No official confirmation that Mr. Abiola had been freed could be immediately obtained Tuesday.

Kadiratu Abiola, his senior wife, told AFP that she was preparing Tuesday to go to Abuja, where the politician has already appeared before court for the start of his case, accompanied by his doctor, Ore Akinlode Falomo.

Recent searches in Vietnam onto a C-141 transport plane as light drizzle fell.

Four members from the veterans of foreign wars group escorted the cases, each bearing a U.S. flag, onto the plane past an honour guard of 60 U.S. diplomats and service members.

The remains, to be sent back for forensic examination at military laboratories, were found by joint U.S.-Vietnamese search teams or handed in by villagers.

The United States sent back six cases of remains in this year's first repatriation in February, and 57 in 1994.

Sen. McCain, who is on the Asian tour, praised Hanoi for its assistance in accounting for missing U.S. servicemen but said he believed the Vietnamese military still had archival information the United States would like to examine.

Since the war ended in 1975, 378 Americans have been accounted for. A total of 2,207 Americans are unaccounted for in Indochina, including 41 civilians. In Vietnam, the figure is 1,621, with the rest from Laos, Cambodia and southern China.

U.S. senator calls for full Vietnam ties

HANOI (R) — U.S. Senator John McCain, a former prisoner of war in Vietnam, Tuesday urged Washington to establish full diplomatic relations with Hanoi this year or risk the issue getting caught up in election politics.

Speaking after U.S. servicemen and veterans had given a solemn send-off to the remains of comrades killed in the Vietnam War, Sen. McCain criticised former U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara, who says in a new book that the United States should have pulled out of Vietnam in 1963.

The war, in which three million Vietnamese soldiers and civilians and 58,000 U.S. troops were killed, dragged on for another 12 years.

"I would support another step forward in our relations and that would probably be the establishment of full diplomatic relations," Sen. McCain told reporters on the tarmac at Noi Bai Airport.

"I think it would be appropriate to try to achieve this year because next year is an election year and it might be less do-able then," added Sen. McCain, a navy pilot who was shot down over Hanoi during the war and

spent five years as a prisoner. The United States established formal ties with Vietnam last January by setting up a liaison office in Hanoi.

President Bill Clinton, who did not serve in the conflict, has said full accounting for more than 2,000 U.S. servicemen still listed as missing is a top national priority and progress will help determine the pace of normalising relations with Hanoi.

In his book, Mr. McNamara, defence secretary for seven years under President John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, broke 27 years of silence about the U.S. slide into the Vietnam War and his central role in it.

Asked to comment on Mr. McNamara's revelations, Sen. McCain said: "I wish Secretary McNamara had not waited so long to reveal some of the facts that we all know."

"I wonder sometimes if Secretary McNamara's revelations are more for his own benefit so he can sleep better at night than it is to provide more information to the American people."

In the repatriation ceremony, serving U.S. soldiers, sailors and airmen carried 10 cases of remains found during



Pedestrians take the advantage of empty streets after the Greek government banned all private traffic in Athens' historic and commercial district and implemented a trial basis for three months (AFP photo)

Traffic banned in central Athens

ATHENS (AP) — Traffic was banned in the capital's historic and commercial district, presenting Athenians with a picture of their city not seen for decades.

"This is amazing. I haven't seen the centre like this since I was a child," Georgia Stratou, 63, said as she strolled down central Ermou Street.

Ermou, once one of the busiest commercial streets of the city, was empty of cars as pedestrians walked from central Constitution Square towards Athens' Monastiraki district, adjacent to the Acropolis.

Others rode on horse drawn carriages, once restricted to a small area near the Acropolis and the ancient ruins that surround it. Traditional organ grinders roamed the pedestrian-only streets while high school children painted murals on the sidewalks of Ermou.

"Looks like paradise" read

one of the murals. Alexandros Drakatos, the head of the Association of Athenian Merchants, said he was optimistic the plan would work.

"We have given it our full support," he said.

Shopkeeper Michalis Agapios said that "people actually have time to stroll and look in the windows without worrying about cars."

Traffic lights were turned off giving the area an eerie atmosphere.

"I thank God I don't have to bear the booting of car horns anymore," said Makis Kalatzis, a pretzel salesman.

The Environment Ministry and city hall jointly im-

plemented the six billion drachma (\$27 million) plan to block off a heavily congested one-square-mile (2.5-square-kilometre) triangular region in the heart of this city of nearly four million people.

The costs involved turning streets into walkways, tearing down old traffic signs and installing new ones.

The ministry says the plan will probably become permanent after a three month trial period. It hopes it will make this heavily polluted city more livable and cut down on the pollution that regularly blankets it on many days of the year.

"We will soon see its results. The centre today is open for all of us," said Athens Mayor Dimitris Avramopoulos.

Only residents of the restricted area with special permits will be allowed to enter with their cars and public mini-buses will transport people free.

About 120,000 people work in the commercial district, while another 250,000 people and 70,000 cars regularly visit it. Less than 1,000 people are thought to actually live in the area.

American named new UNICEF director

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Carol Bellamy, the director of the Peace Corps and a former New York City Council president, was selected as head of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) after weeks of stormy diplomatic manoeuvring.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali announced late Monday that he had chosen Ms. Bellamy over European candidates, notably Elizabeth Rehn, the former Finnish defence minister.

The European Union, led by France, had mounted a strong challenge for the job, offering three candidates and arguing that the 15-nation group collectively donated more money to the New York-based UNICEF than the United States.

Britain backed Richard Jolly, who served as deputy to American James Grant, UNICEF's legendary director, who died on Jan. 28 of cancer after 15 years on the job. Belgium supported Anne-Marie Lizin, a member

of the Belgian and European parliaments. But the other 13 nations solidified their support behind Ms. Rehn.

The United States added the names of four women last month frustrate the European bid after Dr. Ghali indicated a qualified woman would stand a better chance.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright argued strongly on their behalf.

The top post in the prestigious agency has always been held by an American.

UNICEF provides basic health, nutrition, sanitation and education to the world's children. It has an annual budget of about \$1 billion and a staff of 7,500 in 131 countries.

The Peace Corps has some 7,000 volunteers to work in about 100 developing countries but a budget of only about \$218 million — modest for a U.S. federal agency.

Ms. Bellamy, long active in Democratic Party politics, was named director of the Peace Corps in 1993 by Presi-

dent Bill Clinton. She herself went to Guatemala as a volunteer for the 34-year-old agency in 1963 after graduating from college.

She spent five years in the New York State Senate in the early 1970s and in 1976 became the first woman president of the New York City Council, a position she held until 1988.

Prior to being named to the Peace Corps, she was a managing director in the Public Finance Department at Bear Stearns and Company.

Women occupy only 13 per cent of higher management posts in the United Nations secretariat.

But among the specialised agencies there are several, including Japan's Sadako Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Pakistan's Nafis Sadik of the U.N. Population Fund, Canada's Elizabeth Dowdeswell of the U.N. Environment Programme and American Catherine Bertini of the World Food Programme.

Talks fail to end Sri Lanka stalemate

COLOMBO (AFP) — Fresh talks between the Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger rebels failed to break a stalemate in the peace process despite the involvement of a respected Anglican bishop, Tamil sources said Tuesday.

Tamil sources said newspaper in the northern Jaffna peninsula, held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) quoted the rebels' chief negotiator, Thamil Chelvam, as saying the talks "were not successful as we had expected."

The sources said the failure

to achieve a breakthrough in the negotiations was because the government delegation at the talks Monday had no authority to make decisions, leaving LTTE demands unheeded.

The government reiterated its refusal to dismantle a strategic military base in the north of the island and also imposed undisclosed conditions to lift an embargo on fuel which was unacceptable to the LTTE, the sources said.

The government said ear-

lier Tuesday that it was issuing a statement on Monday's talks but later retracted it, saying discussions were continuing through Tuesday and that a news release would be made available later.

A reduced government team comprising bishop Kenneth Fernando and two senior academics remained in Jaffna Tuesday while President Chandrika Kumaratunga's secretary and two military officials in the team returned here Monday.

Liz Taylor portrayed as pill popping punching bag

NEW YORK (AP) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor popped pills like candy to cope with a marathon of affairs and marriages, according to a new unauthorised biography. The 63-year-old actress tried to get a court order to stop publication of Liz: An Intimate Biography Of Elizabeth Taylor by C. David Heymann. He also wrote the best-seller A Woman Named Jackie. But the book comes out this week, cataloging drug use along with Taylor's marriages (eight) and flings (infinite), including supposed romps with Frank Sinatra, Rock Hudson and Victor Mature. A request for comment, left early Tuesday with a receptionist at the New York office of Taylor's publicist, Cheri Sam, was not immediately returned. The book says that without her knowledge, husband No. 3 Michael Todd taped their lovemaking and passed out copies to his buddies. It also says Todd beat Taylor, once knocking her unconscious. Husband No. 1 Nicky Hilton also punched her, the book claims, so violently that she required a doctor's treatment. Taylor also had a fling with Sinatra, but "he dropped her the moment she brought up marriage," according to Sinatra pal Jilly Rizzo. The new book also says Taylor fought a 10-year battle with prescription drugs, including dozens of different painkillers, tranquilisers and anti-depressants, ranging from Ativan to Xanax. In 1981 alone, it claims, the actress got more than 300 prescriptions. The book, published by Birch Lane Press, also alleges that Taylor's father, Francis Taylor, was bisexual.

Cat gets into sticky situation

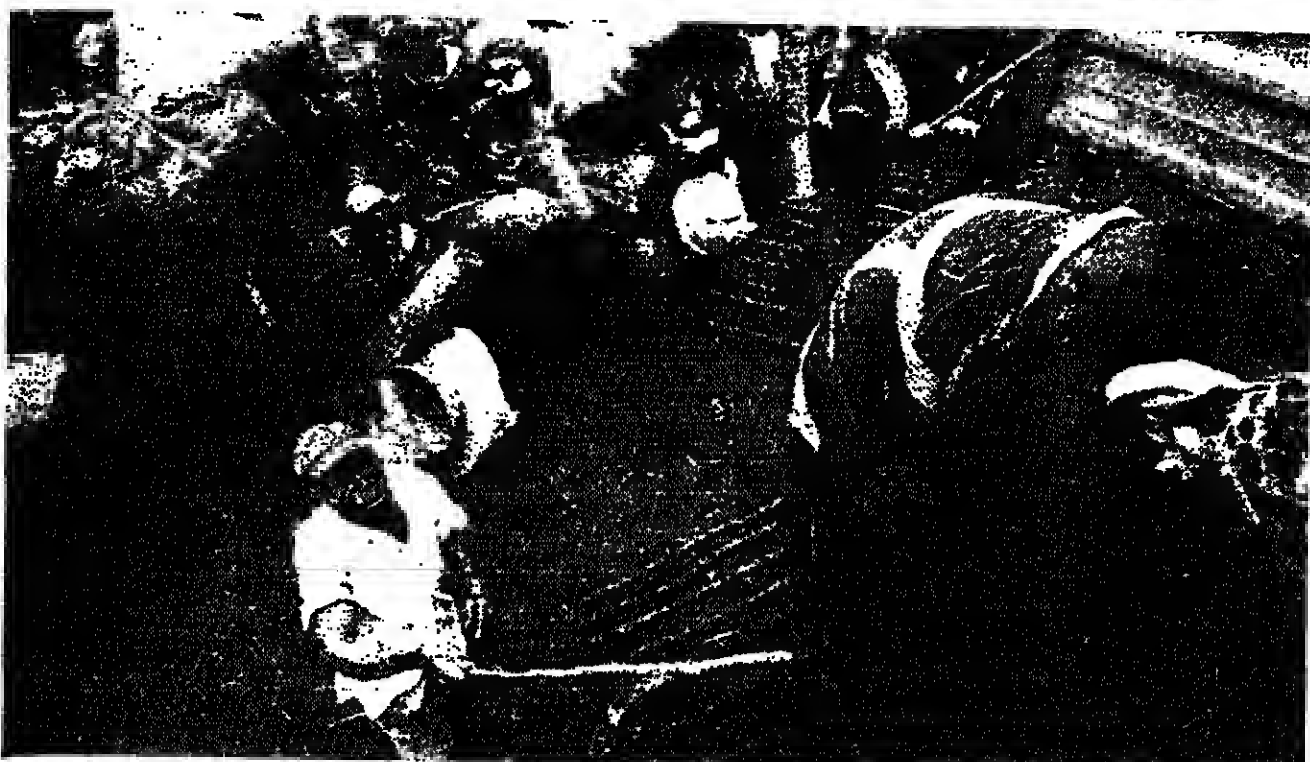
SOEDERHAMN, Sweden (AFP) — Firefighters came to rescue a cat but this time it was not simply stuck in, but to, a tree. Late Saturday night the temperature in Soederhamn (200 kilometres) or 124 miles north of Stockholm) plunged to minus 20 degrees Celsius (-4 Fahrenheit) when the kitty climbed a tree and perched itself on a wet branch. The feline's frantic owners called the fire brigade Sunday morning when birds began attacking the easy prey. The fire fighters rescued the cat, though part of its tail still adorns the tree.

Woman to divorce husband because he drove her to drink

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian appeal court has allowed a woman to divorce her husband because he forced her to drink alcohol and stopped her from praying, the government daily Al Akhbar said Sunday. The husband appealed against an original verdict allowing his wife a divorce but he was turned down because "living alongside a man hooked on alcohol put this woman's life in danger," the paper said. Alcohol is legal in Egypt, but fundamentalists are campaigning for it to be banned in line with Islamic Law.

Grave situation for Chinese corpses

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese government has launched a nationwide crackdown on illegal cemeteries, ordering all corpses buried in unauthorised graves to be dug up and relocated, a report said Saturday. A joint circular issued by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the State Economic and Trade Commission said unscrupulous individuals and work units had set up thousands of unauthorised graveyards in recent years, contributing to an already drastic shortage of cultivated land, the Guangming Daily said. Plots in the cemeteries command a high price, as many Chinese — especially in the countryside — are willing to pay to sidestep the official government policy that promotes cremation above a traditional burial. "All guilty individuals and work units must give up the land and exhumate all buried corpses... and make arrangements for reburial," the circular said, adding that the profits from any illegal operations would be confiscated. At the same time, investigations will be carried out into legal cemeteries to ensure that the cremation policy is being carried out.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
جورن التيمز العربية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Brawls winning day?

THE BRAWL that took place last week on the campus of the University of Jordan between groups of students, apparently with the involvement of outsiders, must not be viewed totally as an isolated incident. Otherwise its lesson would be lost on us. The clash between the two groups has in fact taken place against a background of similar incidents between people dividing themselves on the basis of the tribe they belong to or the city they come from or even their ethnicity. Even football games witnessed on repeated occasions Jordanians split along lines that are contrary to criteria for modern citizenship. As several commentators have already concluded, the scene at the University of Jordan last and this week should have been expected since our institutions of higher learning have not fared better than others in preparing students to be, above all, loyal citizens.

A closer look at this phenomenon would confirm that the divisions that occur at campuses are in fact a microcosm of what is really happening in the country as a whole. There are several signals that point to self-created factionalism within the Jordanian society, mainly along tribal, provincial or even religious lines. What is more depressing is the apparent lack of a coherent governmental policy to combat this deterioration. As a matter of fact there are many examples which would lend support to the premise that certain policies sometimes promote differential treatment of Jordanians whether at the level of admission to university or in the recruitment process for governmental positions.

Admittedly many countries, including the most advanced, resort to so-called affirmative action policies in order to make sure that all races, regions or minorities are equitably represented in public life. The difference here is that these policies are pursued but only in such an overzealous manner that makes a mockery of the original goal.

One clear example of this is the way the process of selection for university admission is carried out. When students are not accepted into university purely on the merit basis, and when professors are not always recruited or promoted according to their academic achievements, the end result can in no way be different from a vicious circle that promotes mediocrity in the system. No wonder the students who fought and injured one another last week were less occupied with university education than with which group of Jordanians they belonged to.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince sounded the alarm about the quality of Jordanian education almost a month ago when he called on the Council for Higher Education to promote intellectual excellence in preparation for the challenges of the new era. In a letter to the council, Crown Prince Hassan proposed the preparation of a well-defined programme of action to elevate the quality of education. We may add that we also need a programme of action to elevate the quality of citizenship in this country so that the loyalty of its people be first and foremost to their country and not to their tribe, province or ethnic race.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour Tuesday expressed belief that the suicidal bombings, which occurred in Gaza Strip in the past few days, would be repeated as long as the Israelis pursue their present aggressive policies against the Arabs and continue to delay the implementation of the agreements reached with the Palestinians. Saleh Qallab said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin believes that he is now reaping the fruit of his peace agreement with the Arabs but he has to understand that these agreements would remain a big lie unless his government takes a brave decision to pull out from the Arab lands and gives the Palestinians their legitimate rights. The writer said that no Palestinian can ensure protection for the Israelis who refuse to implement the agreements and no Palestinian can feel satisfied with peace with a society which harbours aggression against the Palestinians in particular and the Arabs in general. Should the Israelis pursue their present policies and clamp total siege on the Palestinian people, none can guarantee peace or stability in the area, said the writer. He said that despite unjustified American official statements expressing optimism about the peace, the Arabs remain pessimistic because they see Israel's practices which harm the cause of security and stability.

Washington Watch

The attack on U.S.-Arab partnerships

By Dr. James Zogby

NOT ONLY Saudis and Egyptians, but Arabs in general, are expressing deep concern about what is being described as a campaign against Saudi Arabia and Egypt in the West.

There are a great many theories as to the origins of this campaign and what forces are behind it. Some have suggested conspiracy theories bordering on the wild and fantastic. While one must be cautious about accepting such conjectures, it is nevertheless important to recognise the reality of the problem and examine it.

Even a casual reader of Western newspapers and news magazines can see the frequency with which these two countries are the targets of negative articles. There are common themes running through all of the recent articles of this type: the argument that neither country is politically stable and that the West cannot therefore be assured about its relationship with either state. In other words, these articles are seeking to sow doubt regarding the trustworthiness of both Saudi Arabia and Egypt as long-term U.S. allies. These articles as a whole then become an important consideration as policy makers assess overall U.S. geopolitical strategic planning in the future Middle East.

Some Arab analysts have speculated that the source of these stories is the U.S. administration itself and that there is, in effect, an official U.S. campaign underway to punish Egypt and Saudi Arabia because (it is alleged) they have been less than enthusiastic supporters of the peace process and the normalisation of relations with Israel.

I believe that this is an incorrect understanding of what is happening. There is indeed a campaign of sorts underway; however, it began much earlier than the start of the current peace process. It began not because Egypt and Saudi Arabia were cool to U.S. initiatives but precisely because the opposite has been true.

The source of this campaign is not the U.S. administration. Rather, it can be traced to a disinformation campaign inspired by pro-Israel institutions, and it feeds on a tradition of anti-Arab biases. The campaign was designed to create a public climate that is sceptical of the stability and trustworthiness of Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The campaign goes back to the Shamir era in Israel and was born of his frustration and fear of the growing closeness of the U.S.-Saudi and U.S.-Egyptian relationships during and after the Gulf war.

In the first place, Israel resented being locked out of the international coalition that forced Iraq from Kuwait. Israel later came to resent the U.S. pressure to alter some of its traditional positions in order to move the region towards a comprehensive peace.

It was then-President Bush's conclusion (articulated best in his March 1991 speech at the conclusion of the Gulf war) that with the end of the cold war and the conclusion of the Gulf war that the U.S. could no longer afford a cumbersome two-track Middle East policy; and that the countries of the Middle East were ready to engage in the search for a comprehensive peace as a part of the new world order. But, in order to achieve that, a comprehensive peace had to be based on the well-known formula of exchanging land for peace. Mr. Shamir and Israeli policy makers knew that this new Middle East order would ultimately endanger the "special and exclusive relationship" between Israel and the U.S.

In the face of these changing realities and pressure, Mr. Shamir erupted in a fit of anger. In an interview with an Israeli newspaper during the Gulf war, Mr. Shamir displayed his contempt for the emerging U.S.-Arab alliance. Expressing his irritation at the U.S. use of the term "ally" to describe its relationship with the Arab countries in the coalition, Mr. Shamir said that it must be made clear to the U.S. that Israel was the only U.S. ally in the Middle East.

Speaking of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Shamir said: "The U.S. needs Israel. The U.S. does not need Saudi Arabia. It is Saudi Arabia that needs the U.S." He went on to describe his belief that Saudi Arabia was a burden and an unstable

country that would be of no use to the U.S. in the long-term.

A new book focusing on the activities of Mr. Shamir's Defence Minister (and former ambassador to Washington), Moshe Arens, describes how Mr. Arens was given the task of disrupting the emerging U.S.-Arab partnership. Fearing Egypt the most, Mr. Arens set out to create friction between the U.S. and its Arab friend. It is clear that Mr. Shamir was not ready for what he perceived as Israel's surrender of its hegemonic role over U.S. ties in the region.

While the government changed in Israel from Likud to Labour, the Israeli policy which defines Israel as the exclusive U.S. ally in the Middle East, as the centre through which all U.S. ties must be made or broken, remains in place. While more states seem to be accepting these rules, Egypt and Saudi Arabia do not and so, it appears, the Shamir-Arens efforts to discredit these two states and weaken their ties with the U.S. continues.

In the U.S., pro-Israel institutions have promoted this Israeli strategy by generating books and articles developing and elaborating these themes. Two recent books on Saudi Arabia, for example, are clearly designed to spread the perception that the country is increasingly unstable and therefore not a dependable ally. One is entitled "The Economy of Saudi Arabia: Troubled Present, Grim Future." This book, written by an Israeli who has never visited the country, presents a series of half-truths and dated analysis to conclude that the chances of Saudi economy sustaining itself are slim. More telling is the other book, "After King Fahd," published by the well-known pro-Israel think tank, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. This book concludes that succession in Saudi Arabia "could greatly affect the closeness of ties with the U.S." and that, therefore, "U.S. policy makers should take steps to prepare for any number of possible outcomes."

In a widely publicised paper on Egypt, the same pro-Israel group offers the view that the Egyptian role in the Middle East is being eclipsed and somewhat marginalised, and that it should no longer be looked at as an essential component of U.S. strategic policy planning.

The pro-Israel groups know that policy is a function of both politics (money and votes in elections) and the ability to shape a debate by creating a dominant idea which policy makers must take into account. Publishing a few books and articles on Saudi Arabia and Egypt are not enough by themselves, however. But these works become part of the broader public discourse when their ideas are adopted by policy analysts and opinion makers in the U.S. media.

A clear example of how Israel and its supporters use ideas to shape and change policy can be seen in the campaign against the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the late 1970s.

In the waning years of the Carter administration, the Jonathan Institute (founded by Benjamin Netanyahu and named after Jonathan Netanyahu, Benjamin's younger brother who was killed in the Israeli raid in Entebbe), organised a conference in Israel. The purpose of the conference was to reframe the effort to establish human rights as the central issue facing Western democracies (the Carter strategy) and replace it with a focus on terrorism as the major issue of the 1980s.

The Israelis invited to the conference opinion leaders from all over the U.S.: Richard Allen, Joseph Kraft, Arnold de Borchgrave, Claire Sterling and so many others that the sessions were a virtual "Who's Who" of conservative American opinion leaders.

After the sessions were completed, the Jonathan Institute's analysts released their study to the international media. Within the next year those who attended the conference proceeded to write popular books and well-read articles developing the themes of the conference. The ideas were propagated everywhere and were uncontested. Before long they became accepted as conventional wisdom.

It became standard practice to use adjectives such as "murderous" and "terrorist" to describe the PLO. A single editorial in The New Republic, for example, used such adjectives over 25 times — the repetition worked and the description stuck.

The campaign succeeded first as an idea and then, with the election of Reagan as president in 1980, it became policy as many attendees of the Jonathan Institute's conference moved into the foreign policy apparatus of the U.S. government. As a result of this, Israel's war on the Palestinians went unchecked for eight years with tens of thousands killed. Laws that completely outlawed PLO activity in this country were passed in the U.S.

The simple fact is that Israeli policy makers and their allies in the U.S. are once again waging idea-shaping campaigns. The first is that "Islam is the new enemy" in the region, and that the Saudi and Egyptian governments are threatened by this enemy and their own internal instability makes them unsuitable as long-term U.S. allies.

The books are being written. Journalists are invited to press conferences to bear reports. Ideas are presented as facts and the journalists write as if they are facts. In the minds of policy makers these ideas can become facts if they are not countered.

The U.S. administration has made efforts to resist and even fight against these campaigns. For example, from the president on down, the foreign policy establishment has stated quite clearly that Islam is not the enemy. President Clinton, for example, in a speech before the Jordanian Parliament, went to great lengths to oppose this "clash of civilisations" notion.

In the case of the campaign against Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the administration has publicly made it very clear that its relationships with both countries are firm and constant. Despite voices to the contrary, the Clinton administration has been clear in its long-term commitment to close relations with both Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

But neither Saudi Arabia nor Egypt can take these current assurances for granted.

As Michael Dukakis learned in his ill-fated presidential campaign in 1988, a negative campaign must be answered. Mr. Dukakis, it will be recalled, was defeated by George Bush precisely because he allowed Mr. Bush to define him as "a weak liberal with no principles." After Mr. Bush ran negative advertisement after negative advertisement against Mr. Dukakis, the Democrat Dukakis refused to respond, attempting to take the "high road" by not answering what he felt were outrageous accusations. The problem, of course, was that the negatives stayed in the public mind and shaped their ideas of Mr. Dukakis. The sad maxim in American politics is "sling enough mud and some of it will stick."

The politically relevant facts are those that exist as part of the public perception, not those of objective reality. For policy makers, perception is the sole reality.

Negative campaigns must be responded to directly, immediately and forcefully. The public debate in the U.S. must be taken seriously — when seeds of doubt are planted they must not only be uprooted but replaced by seeds of truth. For Arabs this is especially true because negative campaigns against Arabs are aided by a history of anti-Arab bias.

The imperative for Saudis and Egyptians and Arabs in general is to take on this campaign and engage fully in confronting it. This must go beyond offering a rebuttal for every negative story — a counter-campaign must be developed as well. If the Israeli vision of political hegemony is to be defeated, then an alternative vision must be presented in the West and the nature of U.S.-Arab bilateral ties must be affirmed as mutually beneficial and as essential if the new Middle East is to emerge and a comprehensive peace is to be established.

Gingrich's 'crowning jewel' tarnishes America abroad

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Newt Gingrich calls the tax cuts he forcefully and skillfully navigated through the House of Representatives "the crowning jewel" of the House Republicans' "Contract With America."

But his legislation instead may be the last straw for America's reputation of global leadership if it is approved by the Senate.

Troubled already by the uncertain leadership the Clinton White House shows on foreign policy, the major powers of Europe and Asia must now also take account of a Republican-dominated Congress that pays little heed to the international consequences its feel-good actions produce in the global economy.

Tax cuts of this magnitude now can only deepen existing doubts abroad about America's willingness and ability to play its traditional leadership role in world affairs. The effect of the House vote is to enfeeble President Bill Clinton's already weak hand on foreign policy and to encourage other powers to take on the leadership role America has played for nearly six decades.

Economics is politics at this level of international affairs. If Secretary of State Warren Christopher fails (as he will) to get America's European allies to go along with oil boycotts of Iran and Libya, many Republicans will blame the secretary's lack of charisma and bluster. In fact, their own willingness to put immediate tax-cut gratification before the serious fiscal steps needed to right the U.S. economy and stabilise the dollar is a far more important factor in shaping allied disunity on these states.

With the cold war over, Germany, France and even Britain will make a cold-blooded assessment of what they have to lose in not

following America's lead on these and other questions. Mr. Clinton policies and the Republicans' fiscal irresponsibility at home provide the answer: not much.

The Clinton part of the declining U.S. leadership equation is clear enough. European leaders do not hesitate now to force America's hand in areas where they would once have had to follow.

When President Clinton decided after long equivocation to accept Boris Yeltsin's invitation to come to Moscow for May 9 V-E celebrations, it was in part because France's Francois Mitterrand, Britain's John Major and Germany's Helmut Kohl had already made it clear publicly or privately that they were going in any event. That made a Clinton boycott near impossible. U.S. officials have told diplomats here.

During his visit to Washington last week, Mr. Major was not shy about asserting British leadership on reforms for the international financial system now under discussion among the Group of 7 industrial democracies. He offered no show of deference on any point to Mr. Clinton, who has profoundly irritated the British prime minister over Northern Ireland.

Mr. Major and his diplomats can credibly claim to have contained and reshaped U.S. policy on Bosnia, where Mr. Clinton originally wanted to intervene on the side of the Muslim-led government. Now the administration echoes British arguments against a unilateral lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia, pursuing the same damage-limitation approach to the Balkans that London has long advocated.

With the special relationship between London and Washington in tatters, Washington has sought to



"Troubled already by the uncertain leadership the Clinton White House shows on foreign policy, the major powers of Europe and Asia must now also take account of a Republican-dominated Congress that pays little heed to the international consequences its feel-good actions produce in the global economy."

forge a new strategic partnership with Germany. But the administration has

failed thus far to give operational content to its declarations that Bonn and

Washington can provide joint leadership in Europe. On the key issue of ex-

tending NATO into Central Europe, Bonn has set the pace in the past year, not Washington. Germany continues its sharp criticism of Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq despite U.S. urging for the Europeans to mute their public misgivings about Turkey, which one senior State Department official last week described as the pivotal Western ally in resisting upheaval in Central Asia and the Middle East.

Visible discord and struggle among national governments make the headlines. Less visible but equally deadly in the long run for American leadership is the undermining of international confidence in Washington's ability to manage the economic predominance that the United States has exercised since World War II.

Granting American taxpayers \$189 billion in tax cuts as an urgent matter rather than taking serious fiscal steps to bring the budget deficit down first and restore confidence in the plummeting dollar, sends the world the message that Congress puts buying political support at home as its top and perhaps only priority.

The Republicans have rightly rejected accusations that they are turning America onto an isolationist course.

That is not the problem. The problem is that they project an image abroad of an America that is a short-sighted, greedy power unwilling to consider gasoline taxes and other steps that would cut the deficit overnight and reduce U.S. reliance on foreign sources of energy and finance.

No American president of either party will be a strong leader abroad as long as Congress pursues this feeble course.

The Washington Post

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Antoine Rwagahilima

Study sees low Arab Gulf growth rates in '95

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states, hit hard by weak oil prices, are expected to record low economic growth rates in 1995 and some of them could suffer from a decline, a regional bank study said Tuesday.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states registered a general slowdown in their economies in 1994 and the trend will likely continue this year due to a drop in oil prices and spending cuts by most members, said the study by Henry Azzam, chief economist at the National Commercial Bank, the biggest bank in Saudi Arabia.

"The decline in non-oil sectors in the GCC is expected to continue this year because of the policies of rationalising expenditure," he said.

"This will affect the growth rates in the gross domestic product (GDP) and some members could record negative rates in 1995," Mr. Azzam said in the study published in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Khaleej.

Mr. Azzam gave no figures for 1995 but last year Oman and Qatar probably suffered from a decline in the GDP, while it slowed down in Kuwait and fell to 2.9 per cent and three per cent in the UAE and Bahrain respectively, he said.

In Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, the economy expanded by around six per cent in 1994 but the growth was nominal, he said.

Most GCC states trimmed spending in 1995 as part of reforms to tackle a persistent budget deficit and offset the decline in oil prices. The reforms also include privatisation, easing subsidies and attracting investment.

Oman has introduced corporate taxes with exemptions while Kuwait is pondering such a move after its overseas assets of more than \$100 billion were sapped by the 1990 Iraqi invasion and post-war reconstruction.

Other Gulf states have ruled out taxes fearing they could scare off skilled foreign labour.

GCC states produce around 13 million barrels per day (b/d) of oil, providing more than 80 per cent of their income. Weak oil prices have prompted them to launch industrialisation drives to diversify sources of income.

According to Mr. Azzam, oil exports fetched the GCC around \$68.19 billion in 1994 and revenues are projected to rise slightly to \$68.45 billion in 1995 due to an increase in prices from \$15.80 to \$16.

A breakdown showed Saudi Arabia, which produces nearly eight million b/d, would earn around \$27.5 billion in 1995.

The UAE's income is projected at \$12.1 billion and Kuwait's at \$10 billion.

"The economic performance in the region is expected to be varied this year. The growth in government sectors will recede due to spending cuts while the GDP in the oil sector will range between limited growth and stability," Mr. Azzam said.

Widening trade deficit worries Israeli industry

TEL AVIV (R) — The growing commercial trade deficit is one of the biggest problems in the Israeli economy and the government must take corrective action soon, the leader of the influential manufacturers' association said Tuesday.

"We are shooting at a deficit of over \$10 billion a year. This is very worrying," Dan Proper told Reuters.

On Monday the government said the deficit widened to \$2.7 billion in the first quarter from \$1.8 billion in the same period last year. Imports rose 7.0 per cent and exports fell 2.0 per cent.

The 1994 trade deficit totalled \$7.5 billion while the current account deficit doubled last year to \$2.8 billion.

Exporters blame the widening deficit on a strong local currency. Last year the shekel devalued against the foreign currency basket by less than 6.0 per cent and against the dollar by only 1.1 per cent. In real terms the shekel actually appreciated.

The shekel has been supported by interest rates, which were kept last year at a high level to control inflation.

Last month the Bank of Israel lowered interest rates by 1.5 percentage points, bringing its key lending rate to 14.8 per cent.

Mr. Proper said this reduction was not enough.

"I am afraid the bank and the government have missed a golden opportunity to take this crossroad into a much different direction," he said.

The central bank has been cautious, lowering rates slowly as the inflation threat subsides. Mr. Proper said the government had to take more drastic action.

"Psychology sometimes plays a very important role. Psychologically, lowering rates slowly does not achieve anything," he added.

West warns European bank to pull up socks

LONDON (R) — Rich nations warned the European bank Tuesday that it must tighten its own belt further if it is to win new funds to help the old East Bloc turn capitalist.

The warning — which echoed early soundings over decadent interior-design bills at the bank — was accompanied by word that any fresh Western capital will not be quick in coming.

"Discussions (on funding) will take two to three years," British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke said at the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

More than 3,000 bankers and officials convened for the final day of the meeting which has been dominated by talk of the future funding needs of eastern Europe and of the high costs of its London-based directors.

The bank was set up in 1991 with \$13.2 billion in capital and grand plans to help eastern Europe slough off communist central planning and adapt to Western market forces.

East Europe went about its reform business — albeit in fits and starts — but the grand plans at first fell. The EBRD's early years were marred after its French chief Jacques Attali appeared to

focus more on decorating his London headquarters with Italian marble than on disbursing funds east of Berlin.

Despite robust new leadership and stringent cost cuts over the past 18 months — EBRD projects are now up and running in more countries than ever before — the bank is still struggling to justify its role in a world crowded with other lenders.

It wants an infusion of new capital, saying only 40 per cent of the original funds remain uncommitted and that these are expected to run dry by 1997.

Mr. Clarke told reporters the bank has provided "intellectual leadership" — hardly

a ringing endorsement as the EBRD seeks new support from Western budgetary hawks.

And he called for more cost-cutting, saying that managers' belt-tightening had not been matched by that of the 23-strong board of directors and their assistants — many of them on expensive expatriate salary packages.

"The image of the bank has been much transformed by the management's efforts to restrain its costs. It could be damaging to the bank as an institution if the shareholders did not follow suit," said Mr. Clarke.

"The board of directors accounts for 12 per cent of the bank's total costs. This is far too high," Lawrence Summers, the U.S. treasury chief for international affairs, said it was "clearly excessive" that \$1 in eight of the bank's operating costs is channelled to directors.

Officials are floating new ideas, be it a slimmed-down staff or slimmed-down salaries. Mr. Summers has even gone so far as to suggest that its job might be done better by the private sector.

Without new cuts or new cash, the bank will be hamstrung — a point not lost on

the countries that stand to benefit most.

Hungary's Finance Minister Lajos Bokros said the bank must start playing by its own rules, rather than doling out bland advice about reducing state payrolls and containing costs.

"As Hungary has started to reduce its budget deficit, it is clearly the right time for the EBRD to follow the example," he said.

While praising EBRD President Jacques de Larosiere, Mr. Bokros said a non-resident board would "cut costs dramatically" — releasing funds to do the job the bank was set up to do.

Dollar rally continues as traders think again

LONDON (R) — The dollar looked a touch healthier on Tuesday when it extended a rally well above 84 yen as some traders began to think the selling which pushed it to 80.15 on Monday was overdone.

At 1045 GMT the dollar stood at 84.25 yen and 1.4105 marks against \$3.08 and 1.4065 respectively in Europe late on Monday.

Traders were not surprised by the dollar's rally after Monday's dramatic new low against the yen, but said business was thin and likely to

remain so until after the Easter break.

Earlier, currency dealers in Tokyo said the dollar could well have touched a temporary floor on Monday, but warned it was still far too early to say the yen's rise had been reversed.

"Some are saying this down move is over, but others are looking for a bounce back to sell," said a Barclays Bank dealer in Singapore.

The dollar also extended its rally against the mark and Germany's leading economic

research institutes said they expected the dollar to recover to 1.50 marks by the end of 1995. But one sceptical trader said, "they should buy it now then."

British Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke said the Group of Seven leading industrial nations welcomed the strengthening of the dollar and he did not believe the United States was pushing down its currency as a trade weapon.

Traders were also waiting to see what emergency economic measures Japan may

announce later this week to take some of the pressure off Germany's exporting firms.

In London, Europe's largest stock market, prices were helped higher by a survey showing British retail sales slid in March for the second consecutive month. But the gains were reversed as traders began to refocus on the chances of a rate rise.

"People are a bit mindful about the currency problems and the fact that we could still be forced into a rate move here against our will," one dealer said.

German shares showed the best gains as the dollar rallied against the mark, taking some of the pressure off Germany's exporting firms.

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"People are a bit mindful about the currency problems and the fact that we could still be forced into a rate move here against our will," one dealer said.

Japan planners warn recovery could be hit by yen

TOKYO (R) — Japan's economic planners warned Tuesday that the nation's growth recovery from four years of stagnation could be smothered by the mighty yen.

Private economists, meanwhile, are set to revise down their economic growth estimates for this fiscal year to near one per cent, far below the official 2.8 per cent growth forecast.

The economy is still recovering moderately, but could be damaged by recent currency volatility, the government's Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said in its monthly report.

The U.S. currency stood at around 84.50 yen on Tuesday afternoon, 17 per cent below its level at the start of 1995.

The weak Tokyo stock market is one factor which could damage the economy, the agency official said. The stock market has been pummeled by high yen, which squeezes the profits of Japan's exporters and hurts their competitiveness abroad.

The bellwether Nikkei share average closed at 16,268.88 on Tuesday, down some 17 per cent from the start of this year.

Japan Research and some other institutions have called for a discount rate cut of one full percentage point to protect the economy. It now stands at a record low of 1.75 per cent.

Economists also urged the government to raise fiscal spending by between three trillion yen and five trillion yen (\$35.7 billion to \$59.5 billion) to cope with reconstruction after January's massive earthquake and to underpin the economy.

But few believe emergency economic measures, to be drafted by the government later this week, will include such specifics as a discount rate cut or the size of an extra budget to cover reconstruction after the earthquake.

GCC to maintain role in world oil markets

MANAMA (R) — Arab Gulf oil producers will play a major role in meeting future world oil demand, Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Mohammad Abal Khail said Tuesday.

Sheikh Abal Khail said that forecasts by the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) of a 1.8 per cent increase in world oil demand for each of the next 15 years would result in the region increasing its share of the global oil market.

"This forecast reflects an increase in the Middle East's and Venezuela's share of total world oil production from the current 28 per cent share up to 48 per cent by 2010," he told a Gulf economic forum conference in Bahrain.

"This role can be expected to continue for the foreseeable future, as the GCC possesses 46 per cent of the world's oil reserves," he added.

In 1993, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states accounted for 22.5 per cent of the world oil output.

The six-nation alliance groups four OPEC states —

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar — and two independent oil producers, Oman and Bahrain.

The Saudi minister, whose country is the world's biggest oil exporter, said despite the fall in real oil prices to levels of late 1973, petroleum has not regained its former share of the energy market.

"It has become apparent that the major oil companies in the developed nations regard petroleum-based energy products as being in the advanced stage of their life," he said.

"They believe that it would not be productive to invest major funds in further product innovation designed to increase petroleum's share of the energy market," he added.

He said new product development and marketing efforts were more oriented towards defensive measures such as meeting needs of the government for clean air.

"Such attitudes are not necessarily in alignment with the interest of the producing nations."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 12, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Many new and fascinating interests can be gotten into today so study them and know which can help you the most.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have an opportunity to use good judgement in business affairs today, especially with one who appreciates your talents.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day to contact as many associates and pals as possible and make wise plans for tonight.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study your career tasks and do them in such a way today which higher-ups will be pleased in the efforts you put into a project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Plan your entertainments for today and tonight wisely so that you can extract the greatest pleasure from them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Home conditions may need changes and improvements today which may require expenditure of some money.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Contact those persons who can help to make routines more productive and easy at the same time today and tonight.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) Handle with financial experts today so that you can add much to your bank account and get good results for your success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be sure to study you, wishes and know how best to gain them today, and also how to become more prosperous for the future.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) While you like to get everything well organized, today is the time to consider the overall picture of your existence and make revisions.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Find out what friends can be most helpful to you today in improving your social affairs, and get into the right circles of expert persons.

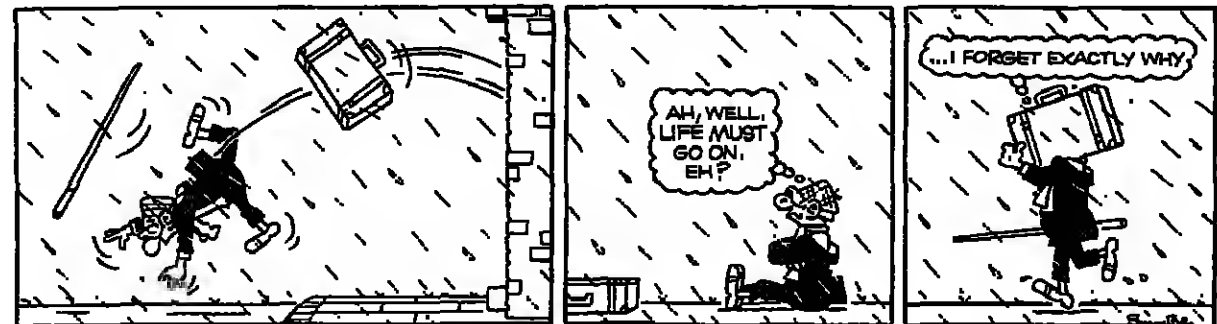
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Handle your business affairs in such a way that bigwigs will be more than pleased by your efforts, and you will advance quickly in your chosen career.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

Peanuts



Andy Capp

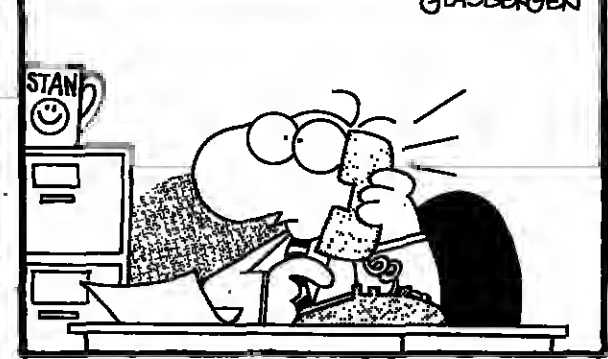


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HAARJ

NINOO

GARNAL

TANCAV

No allowance this week!

A ZERO ON HIS TEST GOT HIM THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIME SAVOR FAMOUS COSTLY

Answer: Where the natives' basket weaving skills came from — GRASS ROOTS

THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

1. A rhythmic pattern of notes.

2. A town in England.

3. A type of music.

4. A type of food.

5. A type of drink.

6. A type of game.

7. A type of animal.

8. A type of plant.

9. A type of flower.

10. A type of fruit.

11. A type of vegetable.

12. A type of mineral.

13. A type of metal.

14. A type of stone.

15. A type of wood.

16. A type of fabric.

17. A type of paper.

18. A type of ink.

19. A type of paint.

20. A type of glue.

21. A type of oil.

22. A type of sugar.

23. A type of salt.

24. A type of acid.

25. A type of base.

26. A type of gas.

27. A type of liquid.

28. A type of solid.

29. A type of plasma.

30. A type of neutron.

31. A type of proton.

32. A type of electron.

33. A type of photon.

34. A type of gluon.

35. A type of quark.

36. A type of lepton.

37. A type of boson.

38. A type of fermion.

39. A type of hadron.

40. A type of baryon.

41. A type of meson.

42. A type of nucleon.

43. A type of atom.

44. A type of molecule.

45. A type of crystal.

46. A type of liquid.

47. A type of gas.

48. A type of plasma.

49. A type of solid.

50. A type of superconductor.

51. A type of semiconductor.

52. A type of insulator.

53. A type of conductor.

54. A type of resistor.

55. A type of capacitor.

56. A type of inductor.

57. A type of transformer.

58. A type of motor.

59. A type of generator.

60. A type of battery.

61. A type of cell.

62. A type of diode.

63. A type of transistor.

64. A type of integrated circuit.

65. A type of microprocessor.

66. A type of computer.

67. A type of network.

68. A type of system.

69. A type of architecture.

70. A type of design.

71. A type of engineering.

72. A type of science.

73. A type of technology.

74. A type of innovation.

75. A type of invention.

76. A type of discovery.

77. A type of breakthrough.

78. A type of achievement.

79. A type of success.

80. A type of triumph.

81. A type of victory.

82. A type of conquest.

83. A type of domination.

84. A type of control.

85. A type of power.

86. A type of influence.

87. A type of authority.

88. A type of leadership.

89. A type of management.

90. A type of organization.

91. A type of institution.

92. A type of corporation.

93. A type of company.

94. A type of firm.

95. A type of business.

96. A type of industry.

97. A type of sector.

98. A type of market.

99. A type of economy.

100. A type of society.

101. A type of culture.

102. A type of civilization.

103. A type of community.

104. A type of nation.

105. A type of country.

106. A type of state.

107. A type of government.

108. A type of administration.

109. A type of politics.

110. A type of law.

111. A type of justice.

112. A type of order.

113. A type of discipline.

114. A type of rule.

115. A type of regulation.

116. A type of standard.

117. A type of norm.

118. A type of custom.

119. A type of tradition.

120. A type of habit.

121. A type of practice.

122. A type of routine.

123. A type of schedule.

124. A type of plan.

125. A type of program.

126. A type of project.

127. A type of task.

128. A type of job.

129. A type of work.

130. A type of effort.

131. A type of struggle.

132. A type of battle.

133. A type of war.

134. A type of conflict.

135. A type of fight.

136. A type of competition.

137. A type of contest.

138. A type of game.

139. A type of sport.

140. A type of activity.

141. A type of hobby.

142. A type of pastime.

143. A type of recreation.

144. A type of entertainment.

145. A type of amusement.

146. A type of fun.

147. A type of pleasure.

148. A type of enjoyment.

149. A type of satisfaction.

150. A type of happiness.

151. A type of joy.

152. A type of delight.

153. A type of ecstasy.

154. A type of bliss.

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193. A type of ecstasy.

194. A type of bliss.

195. A type of happiness.

196. A type of joy.

197. A type of delight.

198. A type of ecstasy.

199. A type of bliss.

200. A type of happiness.

k again

against the market, some of the pressure on many of the exporters in London. The largest stock market were helped higher by the very strong British pound and in March for second consecutive month. But the gains were not the chance of a rate is "People are a bit nervous about the currency and the fact that we are being forced into a rate here against our will," dealer said.

maintain role in markets

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and Bahrain. The Saudi minister of economy is the world's oil exporter, said prices of oil in real oil prices of late 1993, petroleum not regained its former of the energy market. It has become clear that the major oil companies in the developed world are not interested in oil products as being in the advanced stage of their life cycle. "They believe that the production of oil is not the future, but that it is a transition stage in the future," said the Saudi minister of economy. "The energy market is not the future, but that it is a transition stage in the future," said the Saudi minister of economy. "The energy market is not the future, but that it is a transition stage in the future," said the Saudi minister of economy.

SCOPE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1995
Scope: Jordan Times
Main: Jordan Times
Other: Jordan Times
The Jordan Times is a daily newspaper published in Amman, Jordan. It is the largest newspaper in Jordan and is known for its comprehensive coverage of local and international news. The paper is published in Arabic and English. It is owned by the Jordanian Press Syndicate. The paper's website is <http://www.jordan-times.com>.



Tabbaa: Many firms may not participate in Amman summit

JORDANIAN BUSINESSMEN ASSOCIATION (JBA) President Hamdi Al Tabbaa said that many European companies, especially the French, may not participate in the Amman Economic Summit due to the high participation fees. He said French and Danish officials had asked the JBA delegation which visited the two countries to review the matter with Jordanian officials and consider the cost for participation. Mr. Tabbaa said the organizers of the Casablanca summit and now for the Amman summit had commercial interest and were only seeking profit. Mr. Tabbaa cautioned Jordanian officials that the high participation fee was unjustified and could be a reason behind European companies refraining from taking part in the Amman summit. The JBA chief pointed out that another negative aspect mentioned by the Europeans was the focus on U.S. and Israeli views during the Casablanca meeting. As such, Mr. Tabbaa said, if the Amman summit is to be only a case of American and Israeli participation then Jordan will not reap the anticipated benefits from the summit.

The JBA president noted that many parties were preparing for the summit without coordination between them. He also stressed that it was important to seek investments to improve and expand established projects and not only to float new projects. "The Amman economic summit is not only for Jordan but the whole region, and, as such, neighbouring countries could provide better terms or incentives. Therefore, lack of preparation for the summit would result in Jordan coming out empty handed," Mr. Tabbaa cautioned. Noting that Jordan was not yet ready to receive large financial investments, he stressed that the figures given by the Jordanian side at Casablanca were astronomical and could not be realized. He explained that Jordanian economic laws were not attractive to the foreign investor and many changes were needed to lure investors. Mr. Tabbaa placed high importance on having an economic attaché at Jordan's embassies abroad to promote Jordan as a medical and educational centre in the region and to encourage investment in the field of agro-industry. "Asked about setting up joint projects with Israelis, Mr. Tabbaa said the time was not right because, Israel had not yet met all its pledges towards Jordan. In addition, he said, peace should be achieved at all other tracks as regional projects does not mean Jordan and Israel but also includes Syria, Lebanon and Palestine (Al Aswaq).

THE JORDAN New Cable Company earned JD 129 million from sales during its first six months of its operations which started in late last year. Local sales amounted to JD 981,300 while exports amounted to JD 309,100. The company had a net profit of JD 55,900 which will be transferred to retained earnings. Established as a public shareholding company in 1992, the company has JD 8 million in capital and has obtained an exemption from taxes for 10 years from the start of its operations (Al Aswaq).

THE BOARD of directors of the Arab Jordan Investment Fund has decided to commence the general assembly the raising of the fund's capital from JD 10 million to JD 20 million through capitalisation of reserves and floating shares for sale or public subscription (Al Aswaq).

Sudan's sleepy exchange set to keep on slumbering

KHARTOUM (R) — Babiker Feisal, a broker on one of the world's newest — and sleepiest — bourses, failed to raise a flicker of interest for \$200 worth of shares he was selling in a Sudanese bank.

"I think my firm is running a deficit," he said. "Sometimes our commission doesn't even cover the cost of stationery."

Sudan's stock exchange, launched in January, opens just one hour every morning, has no official index, and averages less than \$3,000 of business a day.

It lists 29 companies but nearly half have yet to be traded. Many transactions are worth as little as 5,000 Sudanese pounds (\$10) at the official exchange rate, leaving brokers a commission of just 10 U.S. cents.

"Perhaps the climate is a little adverse for the whole launching of the exchange," said bourse chairman Abdul Rahim Hamdi. "We are living in a liquidity pinch."

Sudan is fighting to bring down inflation to 55 per cent by June, from 130 per cent a year ago. Apart from agricultural output, expected to rise this year, the economy is stagnant and drained by the demands of a 12-year-old civil war in the south.

But Mr. Hamdi, finance minister in Sudan's Islamist-backed government before his appointment in 1993, is optimistic. "We are aware of the problems... but we've started and hope things will catch up," he told Reuters in an interview. The exchange has no official index to monitor prices — Mr. Hamdi says indices are a step on a slippery slope towards futures and derivatives markets, prohibited by Islam.

Trading on margins is not allowed under Sharia (Islamic law). You have to buy full amounts, which helps keep the markets closer to reality," Mr. Hamdi said.

Brokers, most of whom concentrate on building up their own portfolios in the absence of investors, say share prices rose during the first two months but slipped back in March. The market is open to foreign investment, but hopes to tap into local institutional investors and Sudanese expatriates in Arab Gulf states, general manager Mohammad Abu Shoura said. Asked why a Sudanese abroad should invest in Khartoum, where the pound has almost halved in value against the dollar in six months, Mr. Abu Shoura hoped patriotic feelings would prevail.

"They have to help put their house in order and their house is in Sudan," he said. "The only way is to invest, in spite of inflation."

Mr. Abu Shoura said that by the end of the year he hoped another 15 to 20 companies would be listed. "The money available in the banks for private sector borrowing is very small, so this should induce firms to float more stock," he added. "One of our problems is the people's idea of public companies is very bad because historically very few were profitable or cared for their shareholders," he said. "Anyone who bought shares thought he was just donating his money to the company."

Turks get bigger share of Azeri oil

ANKARA (R) — After tough negotiations with the Azeris, Turkey has secured a major international oil consortium to develop Azeri oil fields. Ankara, keen to further advance its oil interests, is now expected to try to sell the Azeri oil to a Turkish pipeline to carry Azeri oil to a Mediterranean outlet in southern Turkey. Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller flies to Baku on Wednesday to sign the deal transferring five per cent of Azerbaijan's share in the oil consortium to Turkey's state-run Petroleum Corporation (TPAO).

TPAO presently owns a small share of 1.75 per cent in the consortium which also includes British Petroleum, Statoil, Amoco, Pennzoil, Ramco, Unocal, McDermott, Delta, and Russia's Lukoil and Azerbaijan's Socar.

Turkish oil officials said consortium members approved the change in the composition of the share structure last week. The Caspian Sea fields have estimated recoverable reserves of between 400 and 520 million tonnes of light crude.

Ms. Ciller, accompanied by three cabinet ministers, 100 officials and 70 journalists, return bours after signing the accord with Azeri President Heydar Aliyev. Turks, who have ethnic and linguistic links with Azeris, have been long supported Baku in its dispute with Armenia. Ankara hopes to persuade Baku and the consortium to accept its offer to pump the oil to the Mediterranean to supplement the pumping of oil to the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossiysk where it is shipped through the Bosphorus Straits to export.

Turks say the straits cannot handle extra oil traffic.

"Our project is not an alternative to Novorossiysk, but a complementary system," Hayrettin Uzun, chief of Turkey's Botas Pipeline Company, told Reuters. "The pipeline is planned to carry 25 million tonnes of Azeri and 20 million tonnes of Kazakh oil a year. The rest can be shipped through Novorossiysk," Mr. Uzun said.

He said the United States supported Turkey's project. According to the project Turkey would help finance the pipeline construction and guarantee to buy a certain amount of oil to be transported by the pipeline.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SUREBANK					
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170					
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 11/04/1995					
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	NEW CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
ARAB BANK PLC	80	15400	193.000	192.500	-0.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	141125	697733	4.790	5.030	0.240
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	13630	65080	4.720	4.920	0.200
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	16350	25038	1.540	1.520	-0.020
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1775	4811	2.700	2.780	0.080
THE HOUSING BANK	36900	262168	6.980	7.220	0.240
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	1000	2909	2.910	2.910	0.000
JORDAN GULF BANK	13992	18044	1.250	1.260	0.010
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	9606	36632	3.810	3.820	0.010
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	2146	10288	4.800	4.800	0.000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	250	968	3.950	3.950	0.000
BEIT KHALIL SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2800	8680	3.150	3.100	-0.050
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	72398	90423	1.230	1.250	0.020
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	144	576	4.000	4.000	0.000
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	17998	302459	1.610	1.690	0.080
BANKS SECTOR					
	491994	1542228	INDEX NUMBER: 156.23		CHANGE: +0.321
INSURANCE SECTOR					
	18501	53796	INDEX NUMBER: 136.82		CHANGE: +0.051
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR					
	154481	262345	INDEX NUMBER: 141.18		CHANGE: +0.371
GRAND TOTAL					
	867572	2811360	INDEX NUMBER: 145.81		CHANGE: +0.771
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET					
			134111		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET					
			164275		

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 10/4/95	Tokyo Close 11/4/95
Sterling Pound	1.5942	1.5950
Deutsche Mark	1.4892	1.4905
Swiss Franc	1.1587	1.1597
French Franc	4.9050	4.9054
Japanese Yen	83.90	84.45
European Currency Unit	1.3684	1.3689

Source: Reuters

European Currency Unit

Source: Reuters

European Currency Unit

Source: Reuters

European Currency Unit

Source: Reuters

European Currency Unit

Source: Reuters

European Currency Unit

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European Currency Unit

Source: Reuters

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HOSPITALITY
GASTRONOMY

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Cheers Cafe

Hamburgers + Pizzas
ELITE CAFE
Swiflyeh

816690
Al Turino

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• Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

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U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3782/92	Canadian dollar	1.4090/00
	1.4090/00	Deutschemarks	1.5776/86
	1.5776/86	Dutch guilders	1.1590/00
	28.94/98	Swiss francs	4.9043/93
	4.9043/93	Belgian francs	1726.8/1.8
	1726.8/1.8	French francs	83.95/05
	83.95/05	Italian lire	7.3700/00
	7.3700/00	Japanese yen	6.2980/30
	6.2980/30	Swedish crowns	5.5420/70
	5.5420/70	Norwegian crowns	1.5930/40
One sterling	\$1.5930/40	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	\$388.90/389.40		

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German world medallist faces 4-year doping ban

BONN (R) — German long jumper Susen Tiedtke-Greene faces a four-year ban after testing positive for steroids in a random test the day after winning the bronze medal at last month's World Indoor Championships.

Tiedtke-Greene, who is based in the United States after marrying American Olympic bronze medalist Joe Greene in 1993, tested positive on March 13, the day after stepping on to the medal podium in Barcelona.

"We are told that the substance involved (dehydrochloromethyltestosterone) is anabolic and if everything is confirmed then there is the threat of a four-year ban," German Athletics Federation (DLV) doping official Clemens Prokop said.

"The athlete contests the positive test and says she must have got it from a third party. But she has not made any particular allegations against any specific individual."

Tiedtke, who finished eighth at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, was suspended from all competitions at a DLV hearing. She was not present at the meeting but was represented by her parents.

The 26-year-old long jumper has exercised her option of asking for the second or B sample to be analysed in the next three weeks. If it proves positive she will be banned pending an appeal to the DLV.

The case provides another setback to German athletics battle against drugs following the long-running scandal involving former double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe.

"If everything is confirmed it is not good news," DLV general secretary Jan Kern said. "Susen Tiedtke lives in the United States. Whether this case says a lot about doping in Germany, we don't know."

"We have to wait until the case has been investigated completely."

Former East German Tiedtke did not give a doping sample during the world championships as the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) did not test all medalists. But German officials took a urine sample after she flew to Berlin.

She was a junior champion for the former East Germany and both her parents competed for the GDR athletics team.

Doping experts said the substance involved was the chemical description of oral-turinabol, the drug which formed the backbone of former East Germany's systematic doping system.

"This proves that the GDR methods are still being used," Heidelberg-based doping expert Werner Franke said.

"The substance itself is largely still only made in Jena (in Eastern Germany)... it is used to treat patients in the last stages of cancer."

"But a lot of the drug was stored after the end of the GDR. It is illegal to get it without a prescription in Germany."

Tiedtke was in Stellenbosch in South Africa when the ruling was announced. She was training there and expected to compete in a few meetings in the country.

Ironically, Stellenbosch, near Cape Town, was the place where Krabbe supplied a urine sample in 1992 which was identical to two of her team mates, the start of two major doping scandals which ended in her retirement from the sport.

Klinsmann punched by fan

LONDON (AFP) — Everton faced possible punishment by the Football Association (FA) Tuesday after it was revealed that one of their fans allegedly punched Tottenham striker Jurgen Klinsmann following Sunday's FA Cup semi-final match at Eland Road.

So far there has been no official complaint from the German striker or the club

but if one is sent to the FA, the Merseysiders could land in trouble.

Everton left-back Andy Hinchcliffe already faces the prospect of the FA charge of insulting behaviour after police decided to report him to the football authorities for making gestures during the match, which Everton won 4-1.

If Spurs chairman Alan

Sugar chooses to take action over the Klinsmann incident, Everton could find themselves in deeper trouble.

Sugar said: "It was diabolical behaviour and those Everton fans should be ashamed of themselves. Jurgen was winded and very shaken up. He was also angry that this should happen to him."

"They hit him in the stomach as he tried to get off the pitch. I do not see why football should tolerate such pitch invasions and behaviour like this."

FA spokeswoman Clare Tomlinson, who was at the match, said: "We are aware of what is alleged to have happened and it was clear that Jurgen Klinsmann was in some distress when he came off the pitch."

"So far we have not received an official complaint from the player or Alan Sugar, but if one arrives then we would investigate."

CORRECTION
In the Indian embassy advertisement of Tuesday Apr. 11, the mileage should have read 110,000 instead of 10,000 as incorrectly mentioned.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Striker has 3 goals disallowed

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Unlucky Platense striker Arsenio Benitez had three goals disallowed in one game in the Argentine championship. To make matters worse, Platense were beaten 1-0 at home by Lanus, who went one point clear of Boca Juniors at the top of the table in the Clausura championship. There was more controversy in the River Plate-Sun Lorenzo derby where three players, including River Plate's veteran Uruguayan striker Enzo Francescoli, were sent off. River won 3-2.

Danyi targets University Games

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungarian Olympic champion Tamas Danyi, who has pulled out of a projected comeback meeting in Edinburgh this week, is preparing to return to competitive swimming at the August University Games in Japan. "His main competition this year will be the University Games in Japan in the last week of August," said Jozsef Ruza general secretary of the Hungarian Swimming Federation. "Should he perform well in Japan, he will keep on training. But should his performance fall behind what can be expected of him, he will have to make a decision." Danyi, 27, won every major championship individual medley race he entered from 1985 to 1993, including double golds at two Olympics and two World Championships. He announced his retirement last July but returned to training a few months ago with a view to competing in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

FIFA to try out time-outs

ZURICH (R) — Basketball-style time-outs will be tried out at the women's World Cup soccer tournament in Sweden in June, FIFA, the game's world governing body, said on Monday. The ruling means that coaches will be able to call two-minute time-outs in both halves of a match to give their players instructions and tactical advice. Time-out tests have already been going on in a regional league in Brazil. Teams in Sweden's professional league, which kicked off on Sunday, are allowed one each per match.

Free-kick goal causes controversy

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Corinthians may ask that their weekend game with Rio Branco be annulled after a remarkable, but debatable, goal by Rio striker Marcelo Carneiro. Carneiro hit a 20-metre free kick against the crossbar and then banged in a rebound himself from outside the penalty area. Referee Claudio Cerdeira awarded the goal in the 2-2 draw even though the ball did not appear to touch any other player, as the rules say it should. The incident came in the 66th minute of the Sao Paulo championship game with the score at 1-1.

EC championships cancelled

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community Tennis Championships, due to be held in Antwerp in October, have been cancelled, Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) officials said on Tuesday. ATP tour chief executive officer Mark Miles said the decision was made after organisers could not guarantee the construction of two new courts at the Antwerp Sportpaleis. Tournament director Georges Baudewyns said: "The ATP decision is a setback, not a catastrophe." The tournament, famous for its diamond-studded Golden Racket Trophy, was this year promoted to "super-nine" status, one of the nine biggest one-week events in the ATP calendar.

Jansher could face disrepute charge

LONDON (AFP) — World champion Jansher Khan could be charged with bringing the sport into disrepute after accusations of a lack of effort in a British Super League play-off match on Saturday. Jansher, who last month retained his British Open title, was beaten 10-8, 8-0 in 42 minutes by Scotland's Peter Nicol while playing for host club Welsh Back Wizards of Bristol against London team Cannons. His match fee of about 1,500 pounds has been withheld pending an inquiry into his performance against Nicol which the Wizards team manager Robert Edwards described as "bitterly disappointing for a packed and eager audience." He had been leading 8-6 in the opening game but did not win another point. That could result in a hefty fine and possible suspension as he has been warned twice previously for similar offences.

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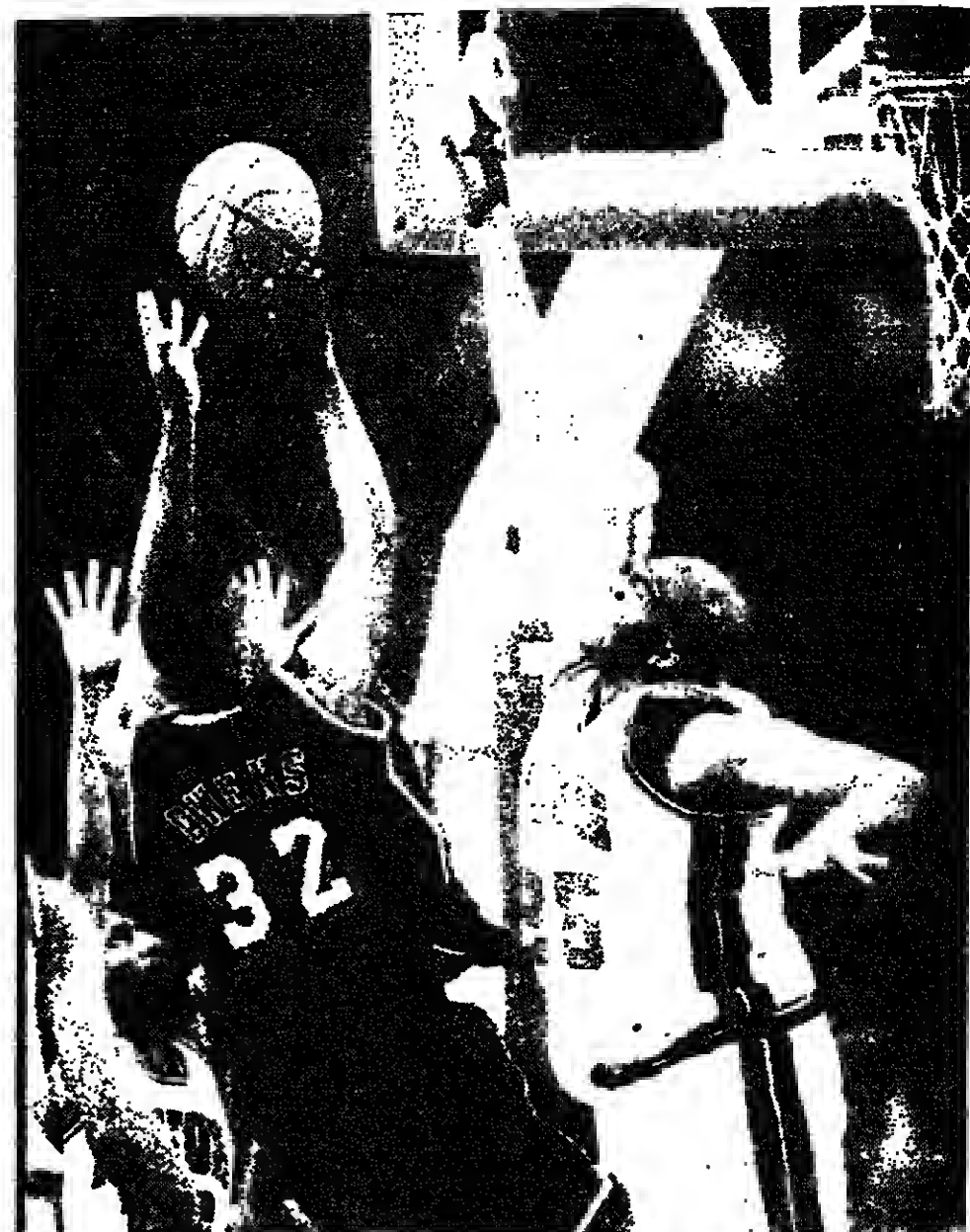
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Allitalia



Detroit Pistons' Oliver Miller (right) tries to block a shot from Miami Heat's Billy Owens (left) in their NBA game (AFP photo)

Hornets end Boston's five-game winning streak

CHARLOTTE (R) — Alonzo Mourning scored 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead the Charlotte Hornets to a 119-95 victory over the Celtics Monday, ending Boston's five-game winning streak.

Hersey Hawkins scored 23 points and Larry Johnson added 15 points and a career-high 11 assists to carry the Hornets to their fourth win in five games as Charlotte pulled within 2½ games of first-place Indiana in the Central Division.

"Our defence was good for the last three quarters and we made things happen," said Hornets coach Allan Bristow. "We created turnovers and it created some opportunities for some easy buckets."

Sherman Douglas scored 21 points and dished out nine assists for the Celtics, whose lead over idle Milwaukee in the race for the final Eastern Conference playoff berth dwindled to 1½ games.

Charlotte held a 69-65 edge

early in the third quarter when they went on a 13-2 tear, sparked by five points by Hawkins and four apiece by Mourning and David Wingate to break the game open.

Boston was unable to cut the deficit to single digits the rest of the way.

At Minnesota, Dikembe Mutombo just missed his third triple-double of the season with 14 points, 15 rebounds and nine blocks as the Denver Nuggets snapped a three-game losing streak with a 114-107 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Mahmoud Abdul Rauf and Reggie Williams scored 20 points apiece for the Nuggets, who moved a half-game ahead of the Sacramento Kings for the final playoff spot in the west.

Tom Gugliotta scored a season-high 30 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for Minnesota, which lost for the eighth time in its last nine games.

Brian Williams chipped in 15 points and Dale Ellis net-

ted 16 off the bench for Denver. Jalen Rose was held to four points but handed out 13 assists.

Isaiah Rider poured in 27 points for the Timberwolves.

In Dallas, Chris Mullin scored half of his 26 points in the third quarter, including consecutive 3-pointers in a key 11-2 run, as the Golden State Warriors posted a 123-112 victory over the Mavericks.

Latrell Sprewell scored 30 points and Clifford Rozier added 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Warriors, who had lost three games to the Mavericks this season after winning all four last year.

Jamal Mashburn scored 29 points and Popeye Jones added 21 points and 11 rebounds for Dallas, which fell 2½ games behind Denver in the playoff berth hunt.

The Mavs also got 14 points and a career-high 19 rebounds from Lorenzo Williams. Jason Kidd was held to nine points but had 11 assists, six rebounds and four steals.

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8 3

The bidding:

North East South West

Pass Pass 1 1

3 4 Dbl 4 C Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

Dear Tannah:

I felt I had recovered well enough

from my recent surgery to play in

the Macallan Invitational in London

at the end of January. Considering

my long absence from competitive

bridge and the strength of the field,

I was quite happy with our ninth-place

finish. I found this hand fascinating.

The winners were the Poles Ba-

licki and Zmudzinski and the auc-

tion shown occurred at their table. A

light opening bid in third seat by

Balicki propelled North-South into

game after North had shown a sin-

gleton spade with the jump cue-bid.

When one side is known to be

distributive and have reached a

light game, a trump opening bid is

not a bad idea—trump leads where-

ever East gains the lead would sure-

ly defeat the contract. However,

West chose a spade, taken by East's

ace and the trump return was won in

the closed hand, so declarer could

lead a club. West, Harvey Moutiel of

Paris, found the brilliant defense of

inserting the queen. The king was

but East was able to win the club

return and play another trump and

declarer could come to only nine

tricks.

South missed a brilliant counter-

stroke which would have permitted

the game to come home. West's

queen of clubs must be permitted to

win the trick. Later, declarer will be

able to take the diamond finesse,

discard a diamond on the king of

clubs after again leading toward the

monarch, then crossruff the hand

for 10 tricks!

As ever, Omar

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Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00		written and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqfa daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Hafia Al Agha in the children's play ☆☆ Sa'di's Return ☆☆	at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155	The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sundays
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Davis Cup Kuwait, Syria and Kazakhstan lose

DUBAI (AP) — Favourite Singapore went past Kuwait on the opening day of the Asia/Ocean Zone Group III championships here Monday.

Singapore opened its singles with Sherman Lim, who beat Hussein Al-Ashwak 6-2, 6-3, 6-1. The Singaporeans made their encounter safe when their No. 1 player Chi Yen Chen upset the calculations of Kuwait's top seed Adel Al-Shaati to win 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

In other matches, Bahrain defeated Mideast counterparts Syria 3-0, while Oman got the better of Kazakhstan 3-0.

Lim of Singapore was rocked by Ashwak in the opening set when the Kuwaiti claimed the opening set in 20 minutes without dropping a game.

Ashwak carried his momentum through to the second set and was up 2-0 when Lim broke the Kuwaiti in the third to reduce the margin. After holding his serve in the fourth to restore parity to the scores, Lim

broke in the 7th and 9th game to win the set and get into the decider.

Breaks in the 4th and 6th games gave Lim an insurmountable 5-1 lead and the Singaporean served out for the match to win in style.

Chi Yen Chen played Singapore's second singles against Kuwait's top seed Shaati and after trading the first two sets, the players shared breaks until Singapore held to lead 4-3 and broke the 8th game for a 5-3 lead.

Although Lim dropped the ninth game, Lim broke the final game to win the set and match.

Brunei, Bahrain, Syria, Singapore, Oman, Kuwait and Kazakhstan make up Group A, while hosts United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Pacific Oceania constitute Group B.

The winners of the two groups get promoted into Group II of the Asia/Ocean Zone. The championships end on April 16.

Schumacher considers quitting F1

LONDON (APF) — World champion Michael Schumacher says he may quit Formula One for IndyCar racing following a recent series of controversies, according to a newspaper report here on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old German, whose contract with Benetton finishes at the end of this year, feels his achievements are being undermined by the disputes.

Most recently he was disqualified for fuel irregularities — along with second placed Williams driver David Coulthard — after finishing first in the Brazilian Grand Prix.

He has also been accused this season of trying to exploit loopholes in new regulations over minimum weight limits.

Schumacher, who finished third behind Williams' Damon Hill and Ferrari's Jean Alesi in the Argentine Grand Prix on Sunday, told Today: "There are limits to everything and, yes, I have had thoughts about going to IndyCar."

Graf replaces Sanchez as world No. 1

MIAMI (Agencies) — Germany's Steffi Graf seized the world number one ranking from Spain's Arantxa Sanchez in the latest WTA Tour rankings released here Monday.

Graf moved ahead because Sanchez lost points accumulated a year ago for winning a tournament in nearby Amelia Island. Graf can boost her lead this week at a WTA event in Houston, Texas.

Spain's Conchita Martinez, ranked fourth, won her second title in as many two weeks and closed the gap with number three Mary Pierce of France.

ninth-ranked Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria and 12th-ranked American Mary Joe Fernandez.

The third-ranked Pierce is sidelined with a groin injury. Fernandez was felled by flu and Maleeva, who reached a final and semifinal the past two weeks, suffered a quad-riple pull.

Argentine Ines Gorrochategui, ranked 22nd, also pulled out with a case of tendinitis of the left knee, leaving 13th-ranked Croatian Iva Majoli as the only top-20 threat to Graf left in the draw.

In first-round matches Monday, South African Joannette Kruger turned back American Shaun Stafford 6-3 6-2, Asa Carlsson of Sweden beat Bettina Fulco-Villa of Argentina 6-1 6-3 and American Tami Whitlinger-Jones scored a 7-5 6-3 victory over Poland's Katarzyna Nowak.

Sixth-seeded American Ann Grossman, ranked 36th in the world, was the only seed to see opening day action but her match with Alexandra Fusai of France was suspended by rain with Grossman leading 6-2 4-5.

RANKINGS

1. Steffi Graf (Ger)	298.82 points
2. Arantxa Sanchez (Spa)	296.72
3. Mary Pierce (Fra)	235.36
4. Conchita Martinez (Spa)	203.75
5. Jana Novotna (Cze)	174.97
6. Lindsay Davenport (USA)	146.77
7. Gabriela Sabatini (Arg)	134.66
8. Kimiko Date (Jpn)	122.08
9. Magdalena Maleeva (Bul)	121.17
10. Natalia Zvereva (Blr)	104.41
11. Anke Huber (Ger)	103.43
12. Mary Joe Fernandez (USA)	94.62
13. Iva Majoli (Cro)	88.53
14. Brenda Schultz (Ned)	81.47
15. Naoko Sawamatsu (Jpn)	79.80

Graf has clear path

Steffi Graf, who should have smooth sail to her fourth title of 1995 after four prospective seeds pulled out of the Houston Tennis Championships before the tournament.

The German star, who won all three tournaments she has entered this year, begins play Wednesday in this 32-player clay court event decimated by the withdrawal of Australian Open champion Mary Pierce.

No. 2 Sampras welcomes rivalry with Agassi

BARCELONA (Agencies) — Pete Sampras, who slipped to No. 2 behind Andre Agassi in the international tennis rankings Monday after 82 weeks at the top, says he's pleased he has to chase someone else for a change.

"I think (Agassi) deserves it. He's playing very well," Sampras told daily El Pais in an interview published Monday on the opening day of the Conde de Godo tennis tournament.

Now Sampras has the chance to regain the No. 1 spot depending on how Agassi fares in the Tokyo Open.

"This rivalry is something that has been missing (from the tour) in the last few years," said Sampras, who welcomes the fact that he and Agassi play very different games and have distinct personalities.

Bringing contrasting styles to the game "is good for tennis and for me, because it forces me and allows me to improve," he said.

Tennis, Sampras said, is in transition between the big names of the '70s and '80s like Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl who popularised the sport and the new players who need to be promoted.

Sampras begins play Wednesday on the clay courts of Barcelona's Royal Tennis Club.

Date makes quarter-finals

In Tokyo Kimiko Date of Japan became the first player to reach the women's quarter-finals when she crushed Rennae Stubbs in the ATP/WTA Tour Japan Open here Tuesday.

The Japanese world number eight, seeking her fourth straight title here, showed no signs of her sore shoulder on her way to a 6-4, 6-1 victory over the 159th-ranked Australian in the second round.

"I had to play very carefully throughout the match," said the defending champion. "She is a very good doubles player. She has power and good serves, she is good at the net. Today, she hit many service return winners, but I never felt I was losing."

First-round byes meant new world number one Andre Agassi, Michael Chang and Jim Courier had yet to make their appearances, leaving Thomas Enqvist of Sweden as the highest ranked men's player in action Tuesday.

The fifth-seed, who beat Agassi at Philadelphia in February, eased past Japan's Goichi Motomura 6-2, 6-3.

Patrick McEnroe of the United States, seeded 11, lost to Australian Wally Masur 2-6, 4-6, but No. 15 Sebastian Lareau of Canada and Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark, No. 16, safely went through.

Lareau defeated Roger Smith of Bahama 6-3, 6-3 while Carlsen beat Tomas Nydahl of Sweden 6-4, 6-2.

Agassi has to survive in the Japan Open at least as long as Pete Sampras does in Barcelona this week to maintain his new status as world number one.

Agassi took over the position, collecting 4,403 points from the best 14 tournaments in the past 12 months, 187 points of Sampras in the latest rankings. He is the 12th player to be ranked top in the 22 year history of the system.

But Sampras, who chose to play on clay in preparation for the French Open, has a chance to regain top spot he had kept for 101 weeks.

"It's important to me to be the best that I can and I believe that's number one. I'm hoping to be the best player in the world for the next few years, that's the mindset you have to have," said Agassi.

"Taking over number one doesn't have the impact it's going to have in a few years from now when I look back and know that I've maintained it," added the 24-year-old U.S. and Australian Open champion.

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Palace urge fans to boycott Cup replay

LONDON (APF) — Crystal Palace urged their supporters here on Tuesday to boycott Wednesday's FA Cup semi-final replay against Manchester United at Villa Park following the death of a fan before Sunday's match.

Selhurst Park director Colin Noades said the Football Association (FA) were wrong not to postpone the match and he also hit out at United for failing to condemn the violence.

Noades said: "Following the FA's refusal to postpone the forthcoming fixture against Manchester United we are actively encouraging our 'supporters' to boycott Wednesday's fixture."

"We sincerely believe that the match should not be played so soon after the dreadful events of last Sunday, and we are anxious to avoid any further serious incidents."

Noades, brother of club chairman Ron Noades, expects fewer than 4,000 fans to travel from South Lebanon compared to the 15,000 who went to Sunday's 2-2 draw.

The match was marred by a violent clash between rival fans outside a pub eight miles away at Walsall where Palace fan Paul Nixon was crushed under the wheels of a coach as he fled United supporters.

Palace wanted the match put back a week as a mark of respect and also to allow feelings to cool down.

The police, though, said it

should go ahead as scheduled.

Noades added: "It was the third serious instance of appalling behaviour at games involving the two clubs."

"Two years ago at Selhurst Park a Crystal Palace supporter received multiple stab wounds at a match Manchester United. Earlier this year we saw the Eric Cantona incident followed by last Sunday."

"We believe that it is long overdue for Manchester United to make a statement concerning their 'supporters' activities and to take the necessary action."

But United manager Alex Ferguson did make a personal plea for peace on Tuesday, saying: "The way to peace has got to be found. We must get rid of hooligans once and for all."

Old Trafford chairman Martin Edwards commented: "I appeal to every fan going to the replay to help restore the good name of English soccer."

But their pleas do not appear to go far enough for Palace, who have been in constant contact with representatives of their supporters.

Noades continued: "We wouldn't expect more than 3,500 Palace fans to attend the replay. For every 100 of our supporters only one believes the game should be played. They have life in perspective even if the FA

haven't."

He added: "The match should have been switched to next midweek. Apart from respect to the dead man's family, to carry on as if nothing has happened is quite ridiculous and quite inappropriate."

"Police have confirmed supporters at the pub exchanged chants about Cantona before the outbreak of violence involving about 100 people."

Frenchman Cantona is currently banned until the end of September following the kung-fu kick on Palace supporter Matthew Simmons at a league game between the clubs in January.

He was ordered to do community service after a fortnight's jail sentence for common assault was overturned on appeal.

Palace captain Gareth Southgate said: "A lot of our supporters will be slightly worried about travelling. But Sunday was a carnival day as far as we were concerned and I don't see why tomorrow (Wednesday) should be any different."

"Fans from both clubs were mixing outside the ground without any trouble. There was a great atmosphere."

Palace manager Alan Smith and counterpart Ferguson will take to the Villa Park pitch before kick-off to appeal for calm over the loudspeaker system.

Burundi escape war to join youth championships

JOHANNESBURG (APF) — The mere presence of Burundi at the World Youth Championship finals, which begin in Qatar Thursday, is a remarkable achievement.

While the players put the finishing touches to their preparations in the calm of the Gulf state, the tiny central African country teeters on the brink of civil war.

Amid the death and destruction triggered by ethnic rivalry, coach Baudouin Ndimi Ribakare has somehow kept intact the squad beaten 4-0 Cameroon in the African final last February.

Even the mauling by Cameroon in Lagos could not dampen the celebrations as second place in their initial appearance at the continental finals secured Burundi a ticket to the world event.

On Thursday evening, at the Al-Ahli Club ground in the Qatari capital Doha, the first Burundian team to reach the finals of a world championship tackle Spain in Group B.

On April 16, Chile will provide the opposition at the same venue and Burundi switch to Qatar Club three days later for their final group match against Japan.

German-trained Ribakare has been given much credit for the amazing rise of a country which never previously entered under-age tournaments.

A former player with Bu-

jumbura club Prince Louis, he scoured the landlocked, impoverished country to find 200 potential squad members, who were whittled down to 22.

Burundi use a flexible 4-3-3 system with a confident mid-field trio revolving around captain Olivier Niyumeko, who turns 20 in November.

Mbaza Rukundo, Felicien Mbaza and Wiltonja Maumbuko form an attack which scored 12 goals in nine matches against Malawi, Egypt, Mauritius, Senegal, Mali and Cameroon.

If Intamba, as the youth team are known locally, find scoring difficult, they concede even fewer goals due to a solid defence marshalled by Saidi Ndabanine and Juma-Pili Maulidi.

The danger of stage fright on the world stage is real, but considering what Burundi have achieved during the past year, more shocks could be in store.

Nigeria, Ghana to miss finals

Nigeria and Ghana will miss the 10th world youth football championship finals which begin on Thursday in Qatar.

The Nigerians were scheduled to stage the biennial tournament last month but the world governing body FIFA cancelled the event,

citing security and health insurance problems.

Nigeria have also been omitted from the 16-nation championship lineup after failing to confirm their entry, and their place in Group A was filled by Qatar.


Ghana, runners-up to Brazil two years ago, were eliminated by Mali in the preliminaries. Neither team managed to score in Accra or Bamako, where the ties were settled by a penalty shootout which the home team won 4-3.

Nigeria, whose four world appearances is a record for an African country, came closest to lifting the title in 1989, losing 2-0 Portugal in the final.

In the quarter-finals of that championship, the Nigerians had staged a remarkable comeback, defeating the Soviet Union on penalties after wiping out a four-goal deficit during normal time.

Angered at their treatment by FIFA, Nigeria tried to persuade the other African qualifiers, Cameroon and Burundi, to stay away from Qatar.

But a hastily-convened meeting of the African Football Confederation (CAF) decided against a boycott, limiting itself to a statement condemning the "inadmissible bias" of FIFA.



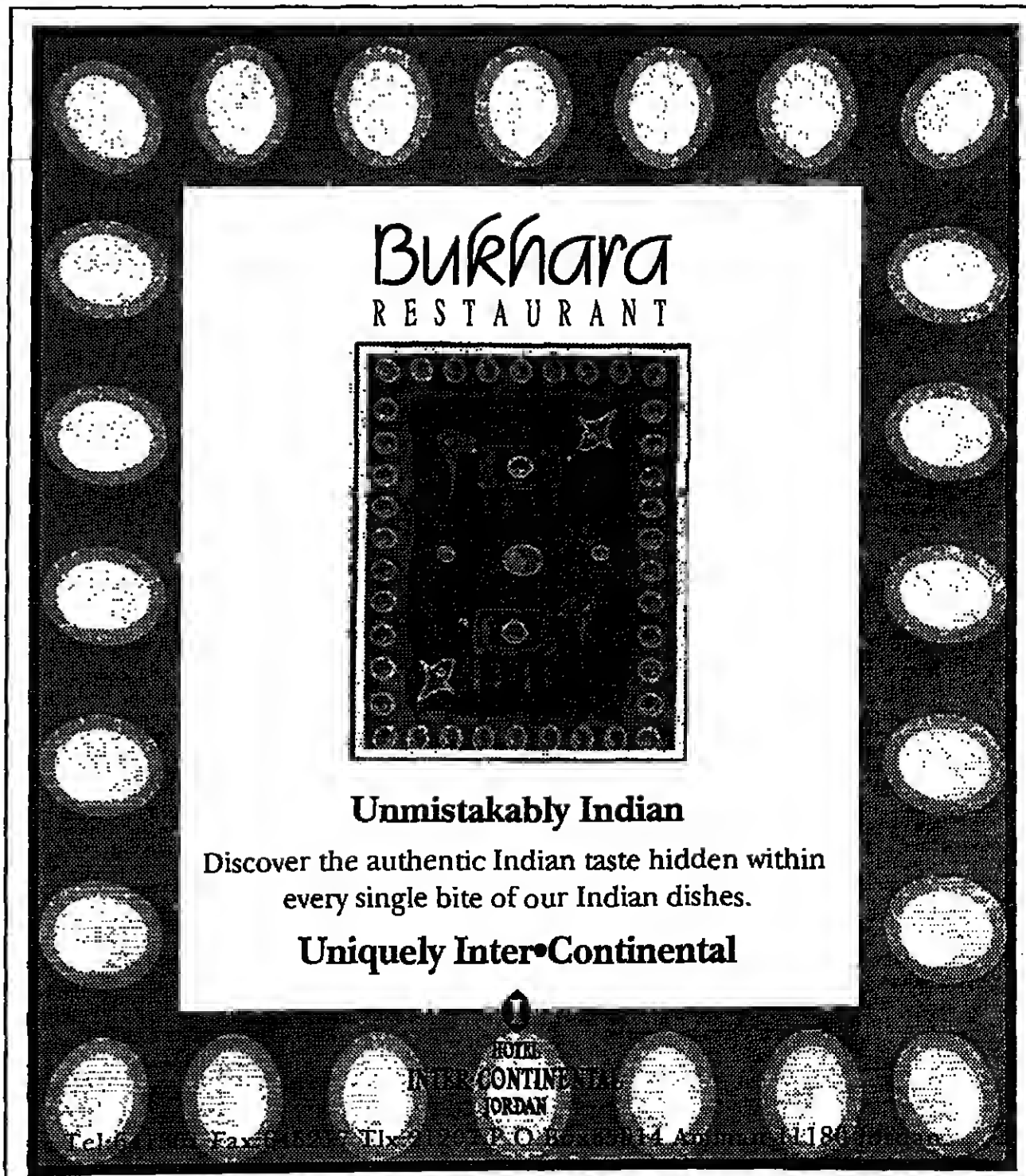
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemen denies training extremists

CAIRO (AP) — Yemen's parliament speaker denied Tuesday that extremists from Egypt were being trained in Yemen. Egypt has repeatedly accused foreign countries of financing and training the militants in their three-year campaign against the government. Sudan and Pakistan are the most frequently mentioned. Although the government has not singled out Yemen, some Egyptian newspapers have suggested it has played a role. But Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar, on a three-day visit to Cairo, said after meeting President Hosni Mubarak that such support would be incompatible with Yemen's foreign policy. "These reports and rumours are absolutely not true and President Mubarak understands that," Mr. Ahmar said. "Yemen cares more about the security of Egypt than any country. Yemen can never repay its debt to the Egyptian people with harm or with befriending elements against Egypt," his comments were carried by Egypt's Middle East News Agency.

Iran looking to ban use of Western words

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iranian parliament is debating a ban on the use of Western words and terminologies in the Farsi language, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said a draft bill calling for the ban was debated Monday by a special committee of the 270-seat Majlis. The move indicates that Iran may be stepping up a campaign against Western influences. Last year the Majlis passed a bill to ban the use of satellite dishes used to pick up foreign television channels. Vice President Hassan Habibi, who attended Monday's debate, noted that implementing such language ban would be difficult and lengthy. He said that the Academy of Persian Language and Literature had picked up non-Farsi words used in various publications and compiled a list of Farsi synonyms for them. The head of the Majlis committee, Reza Taqavi, called on all senior officials of the country to avoid using non-Farsi words, IRNA reported. He also called on Iranian manufacturers to avoid using Western words as brand names.

Yemeni opposition says 2 members detained

SANAA (R) — Yemeni authorities arrested two members of opposition parties last week for distributing leaflets, opposition sources said. A statement late on Monday by the small Nasserite Popular Unity Organisation said two members of the party and one member of the Baath Party were arrested in Houidah governorate on Saturday for handing out opposition leaflets. Other opposition activists were put under surveillance, it added. Yemen's seven opposition parties control about 75 seats in the 301-member parliament.

Local elections in Tunisia set for May 21

TUNIS (AFP) — Local elections will take place in Tunisia on May 21, authorities announced here Monday. The date of the elections, normally held every five years, was set by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at a meeting with Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, officials said. The opposition boycotted the last local elections in June 1990 when the ruling Democratic Constitutional Rally (RCD) party won almost all the 3,774 seats up for election.

Pilgrims should hold rally — Rafsanjani

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Iranians should stage symbolic demonstrations in Mecca during this year's pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported. Mr. Rafsanjani referred to the need to hold rallies in Mecca, a source of strain between Iran and Saudi Arabia in every Haj season in recent years, when he met officials from Iran's pilgrimage organisation on Monday. "He reminded them of the need for heeding the directives of the leader of the Islamic revolution (Ayatollah Ali Khamenei) including the organising of the symbolic demonstration in Mecca," IRNA said. Saudi Arabia last week warned pilgrims against bringing political books, pictures or leaflets to the Haj which reaches its climax this year in early May.

Kuwait not to dissolve assembly

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's acting prime minister, trying to defuse a constitutional row between government and parliament, has dismissed speculation the authorities will end the dispute by dissolving the opposition-dominated assembly. "There is no crisis between the government and the parliament," said Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwait's foreign minister who is acting prime minister during the absence of Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah who is visiting the Far East. In remarks quoted by Al Qabas newspaper on Tuesday he said: "We are not facing circumstances that make us think about dissolving the assembly or revising the constitution. There is constant cooperation between the two authorities." The political stability in the country traditionally depends on cooperation between the government and the outspoken assembly of 50 elected members. Sheikh Sabah, who is also brother of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, was speaking after talks with opposition deputy Hamad Al Jouan, chairman of the assembly's legal and legislative affairs committee.

Turkish minister resigns over privatisation

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Transport and Communications Minister Mehmet Kostepen announced his resignation here Tuesday, criticising the government for the slow pace of privatisation. It was the first resignation by a Turkish minister since a cabinet reshuffle March 27. Mr. Kostepen, a member of the True Path Party (DYP) which shares power in a coalition government with the People's Republican Party (CHP), said there was a "crisis of confidence" between him and the premier because of a lack of progress on the privatisation of the telecommunications industry. The telecommunications sector was one of the target areas of Ms. Ciller's privatisation programme, but little has been done since she took office in June 1993.

Villagers capture militant leader

MINIYA (AFP) — Villagers in southern Egypt have caught a leader of a Muslim militant group and handed him over to police, officials said Tuesday. The inhabitants of Qamadir on Monday night chased four armed men they suspected of being militants and caught Sayyed Abdul Sabur Mohammad, 19, a local leader of the Gamaa Al Islamiyah group. Three escaped but Mohammad, from the Muslim fundamentalist hotbed Malawi, was handed over to police who suspect him of involvement of attacks on the security forces. A wave of militant violence has left 729 dead since March 1992.

Bashir visits recaptured town

KHARTOUM (R) — President Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir paid a visit to the southern Sudanese town of Nasir which was recently recaptured from rebels. Nasir, a major post on the Ethiopian border, was captured last month by government troops from a faction of the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) led by Riak Machar which had made it its headquarters. State television on Monday showed Gen. Bashir talking to the people of Nasir who belong to the Nuer tribe, the second largest ethnic group in southern Sudan. He told them to contact their tribesmen in the ranks of the rebels and urge them to return home and participate in rehabilitating Nasir. Gen. Bashir declared a national campaign to rebuild Nasir, himself making the first donation of 1.25 million Sudanese pound (\$236,000) to the fund-raising drive.



CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Crown Hammad, a former minister and member of Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday visits the Upper House of Parliament, who passed the residence of the Jumm'a Hammad family away on March 17 (Petra photo) to condole them on the death of Jumm'a

Free convertibility of dinar a major step forward — Nabulsi

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The newly acquired status of the Jordanian dinar as a freely convertible currency has no impact whatsoever on the exchange value of the currency, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), Mohammad Nabulsi, said Monday.

If anything, Dr. Nabulsi said, the move will allow free transfer of currency from Jordan for all personal purposes — tourism, medical treatment, education etc. — and should be a positive sign of the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves situation.

However, restrictions remain on capital payments under the move, which comes in compliance with Jordan's obligation as a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

However, expatriates in Jordan will have to wait for some time before they could freely transfer earnings home through the Jordanian banking system since the related regulations have to be amended to lift a ceiling on monthly transfers.

Dr. Nabulsi, in an interview with the Jordan Times shortly before he left for Oman to attend a meeting of Arab financial institutions, noted that an article in the

Agreement of Association of the IMF stipulated that all IMF members should "deregulate and abolish all kinds of restrictions on their payments."

"At the time of Bretton Woods (when the IMF and the World Bank were created), most of the world countries agreed to make use of a transitional arrangement," under which they committed to implement the deregulation at a later date, said Dr. Nabulsi.

Most of the developed countries fulfilled the commitment in about 20 years from Bretton Woods, and most of the developing countries did so in the last 20 years, he said, adding that more than 100 countries have by now done so.

"In effect, Jordan was one of the early countries to deregulate, since the 70s," he said. "We have consistently undertaken to deregulate and liberalise our exchange control, particularly on current payments."

Jordan recently informed the IMF that it was ending its use of the transitional arrangement and the world body has declared the Kingdom as "a member with a convertible currency," the CBJ governor said.

In line with the move, the CBJ has sent a new exchange control law to the govern-

ment. "which abolishes just every regulation on current payments, but keeps certain controls on capital payments," he said.

"It is a big step forward in abolishing and eliminating of the remnants of the exchange control laws," Dr. Nabulsi said.

"It means a lot of liberalisation... individuals, companies... residents in Jordan... are free to transfer abroad whatever they need to execute any kind of current payment abroad... for tourism, education, health care etc.," added the CBJ chief, noting that such transfers were partially restricted until now.

The free convertibility of the currency "has nothing to do with our exchange rate policy," said Dr. Nabulsi, noting that the Central Bank continues to set the daily rates of exchange.

"The policy that we are applying, let us say, for managed floatation or whatever to control exchange rates will not be changed in any way," he said.

He also noted that the "re-orientation (in foreign exchange controls) should indicate that we are in a comfortable reserves position which should not be adversely affected by any relaxation or liberalisation."

Arafat: Israel is fuelling civil war

(Continued from page 1)

"We can collectively characterise this session as a good session," Mr. Singer said after the talks.

Mr. Singer also said Israel would try to meet a July 1 deadline for an agreement on an Israeli withdrawal and holding the elections. Mr. Arafat has insisted Israel meet the deadline.

Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian delegate, refused to talk to reporters but later told the Associated Press that the attacks would not affect that talks.

"The government of Israel will continue the negotiations with a spirit of business as usual and we will not give the prize to the terrorist groups by suspending the negotiations," he said.

Mr. Arafat left for Gaza later Tuesday.

Palestinians said police detained at least 50 supporters of Hamas and Islamic Jihad on Monday night and on Tuesday as they raided the homes of activists and the offices of charitable organisations linked to both groups.

The arrests raised to about 200 the number of detainees in Palestinian custody since the Sunday bombings.

In one incident in Gaza City, police fired shots in the air when demonstrators went down to the streets to protest the arrests. Palestinians said Hamas men fired back at the police. No one was hurt.

Prosecutor General Khaled Al Kidra said Islamic Jihad activist Omar Shallah, 29, was sentenced to life by a recently established state security court.

"The charges were he was inciting people to suicide operations and also tempting them to commit crimes inside the self-rule areas and outside them," Mr. Kidra said.

The court sentenced another Islamic Jihad man on Sunday night to 15 years in jail after convicting him of training children as young as 10 years old as guerrillas.

The crackdown began on Sunday night after two suicide bombers from Hamas and Islamic Jihad attacked Israeli targets in two separate incidents in self-ruled Gaza.

Seven Israeli soldiers and an American citizen on her way to a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip were killed and more than 50 were injured in the two explosions.

The arrests raised tension in the Gaza Strip and prompted concern of clashes between Hamas and Islamic Jihad guerrillas, many of whom went into hiding, and a Palestinian police.

A senior Hamas leader called the arrests "very serious."

"The situation is getting very bad and if it is not solved quickly in a correct manner there could be an explosion," said Imad Falouji, a senior Hamas leader.

But he added: "I don't see a civil war taking place. We still have great hopes of saving the situation."

Mr. Falouji said that Mr. Arafat was reacting to Israeli pressure and he called the arrests "a public show."

He said that the arrests were not going to stop Hamas.

Israel welcomed the crackdown but said more was needed.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, speaking to reporters, said:

"I cannot say that the Palestinian Authority does enough, but I can say that there are some signs which are positive."

Freih Abu Medein, in charge of justice in self-rule, told reporters in a briefing on security measures on Monday that police would partially disarm militant groups soon.

"We are going to start, maybe next week, to disarm and to collect all the rifles and maybe we are going to let them keep only pistols or personal weapons."

"Chairman Arafat has to prove he is taking concrete measures against terrorism," said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Israel Radio.

"Otherwise, it will be difficult for Israel to continue the process."

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben Ami said Mr. Arafat's pledge still had to be turned into action. "Let the authority disarm the militants, then we will see."

He added that Mr. Arafat had still not kept a promise made in September 1993 to

strike out clauses of the PLO charter calling for the destruction of the Jewish state.

But Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said: "The government is satisfied with the measures taken by Chairman Arafat against the fundamentalists, and a continuation of this policy will allow us to reach the second phase of the autonomy accord on time."

Israeli President Ezer Weizman on Tuesday called for a halt to the peace process, during a visit to the wounded from the Gaza blasts in a Beersheba hospital.

Hamas meanwhile warned Mr. Rabin to prepare coffins for the Israelis it would kill in retaliation for the crackdown in the Palestinian self-rule enclave.

Hamas's military wing said in a statement:

"The Izzeddin Al Qassam brigades call on Mr. Rabin not to be so happy... for the arrest of our holy strugglers and assert that these (arrests) have crossed our red lines."

"It calls on him also to prepare as many coffins as possible for his soldiers and his settler pigs because our response toward these arrests will be against our primary enemy and it will come as soon as possible and in the midst of the Zionist entity."

A Gaza human rights group criticised the crackdown.

The Gaza Centre for Rights and Law said that some of the widespread arrests were "accompanied by shooting."

The centre "views with growing alarm the Palestinian authority's collective arrests while recognising its right to enforce the law," said the human rights organisation.

It called for the release of those detained for their political views and an end to mass arrests. It said some 250 political prisoners remained behind bars, including 200 rounded up over the last two days.

A major Palestinian opposition faction had stronger criticism.

"The Palestinian police is responding to Israeli orders," charged the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

JWA may expel member for Israel TV interview

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The administrative committee of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) voted in favour of dismissing one of its members for appearing on Israeli Television.

In its first meeting after being elected on Friday, the committee decided to rescind the membership of Hamadeh Fara'neh, but postponed implementation of the decision, pending consultations with the JWA's lawyer, said JWA President Ibrahim Abbi.

"(Talking to Israeli Television) is in contradiction with the association's interior regulations and those of the General Union of Arab Writers," said Mr. Abbi. "Mr. Fara'neh has also damaged the association's reputation."

Mr. Fara'neh, a columnist at Al-Dustour, gave a telephone interview to Israel Television last Friday. According to Basel Rafai'eh, a member of the administrative committee, Mr. Fara'neh said his comments that the new administrative committee of the JWA was more flexible regarding relations with Israel and had a favourable stand vis-a-vis cultural normalisation with Israel.

"The association is not pro-normalisation," Mr. Rafai'eh said. "He has insulted the association and considered its administrative committee as supportive of Arab treaties with Israel."

Mr. Fara'neh, a columnist for 15 years, rejected the claims and vowed to take his case to court if the JWA implemented the decision to expel him.

He said Israel Television made an interview with him over the phone shortly after

Friday's elections and that he had expressed his own point of view and not that of the association.

"I only said that the realistic trend within the association has won against the traditionalist stream," Mr. Fara'neh said. "I seek as an individual to influence the public opinion in Israel but I am not supporting the Israeli point of view. I do not dismiss the historic view of the Arab-Israeli conflict but I am using different means."

Mr. Abbi said the fight against normalisation or relations will not end unless all Arab and Palestinian rights are regained. He said the JWA was not targeting Mr. Fara'neh on personal grounds but because he had violated the association's regulations.

Mr. Fara'neh said: "The association is not a political party whereby all members should have the same and one opinion and should follow the same rules."

Mr. Abbi said: "Contacting the enemy cannot be considered as freedom of opinion. Mr. Fara'neh violated all rules and regulations."

However, Mr. Abbi said, the association will not take any measure against Mr. Fara'neh until they consult with the association's legal advisor. He said that the administrative body cannot take such a decision on the basis of the association's resolutions, taken in August last year. These resolutions, he said, could be considered null and void after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty in October.

Mr. Fara'neh became a JWA member in 1974. He has written three books and worked for several Jordanian newspapers.

Americans held in Iraq are well, reporter says

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A Polish diplomat and a U.S. television reporter visited two American prisoners in Iraq's maximum security prison Tuesday and said they were being held in difficult conditions, but were well.

"They better than before. However, their conditions are difficult," the diplomat, Ryszard Krystosik, told reporters after returning to Baghdad. He declined to elaborate.

The two prisoners — David Daliberti, 41, and William Barloon, 39 — were sentenced March 25 to eight-year terms for illegally crossing into Iraq March 13.

CNN reporter Brent Sadler said the men were angry, depressed and bracing themselves for a long imprisonment. But, he said: "I would describe their overall condition as pretty good."

"Generally speaking, they are in better shape than when I saw them a couple of weeks ago," he said.

He said they are sharing a cell block with 200 to 300 other inmates of various Arab nationalities.

The men have been able to listen to a short-wave radio and will receive weekly visits from Mr. Krystosik, Mr. Sadler said. They have had no problems with other inmates.

Mr. Daliberti and Mr. Barloon, said to be U.S. civilian defence contractors who were

working in Kuwait when they strayed across the border on March 13, are being held in Abu Gharib jail, 30 kilometres from Baghdad.

Their lawyer has said they would appeal next week against their eight-year prison sentences passed on March 25.

Under Iraqi law, those sentenced can lodge an appeal within a month. If the verdict is upheld, the only other option is to plead for a pardon from President Saddam Hussein.

Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan has said he did not expect the Americans to be released soon and ruled out third-party mediation. Iraq broke off diplomatic ties with the United States during the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraqi officials have suggested that the American pair entered with sinister motives tied to U.S. efforts to prolong the oil and trade embargo imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The United States has repeatedly appealed for the release of Mr. Daliberti and Mr. Barloon, saying they strayed into Iraqi territory from Kuwait accidentally.

U.N. officials have admitted that U.N. personnel in the demilitarised zone along Iraq's southern frontier erred by waving the men through onto Iraqi soil March 13.

Ekeus report quells Iraqi hopes

(Continued from page 1)

had been destroyed. It said allegations of other missile attacks proved unfounded but that there were still some potential loopholes on past research.

Chemical arms: The report said a system had been set up to preclude Iraq from resuming its production of mustard, tabun and sarin nerve gases. It said that except for two heavily monitored plants making pesticides, none of the former sites had the capability to produce the banned weapons.

Money: The commission also warned again it would have to curtail operations because of a constant lack of funds. At the moment its deficit is \$13 million.

Iraqi officials accused Mr. Ekeus of working for the United States.

Salah Mukhtar, editor of the government newspaper Al-Jumhuriya, said the report by Mr. Rolf Ekeus had "given the United States a pretext for prolonging the embargo and lengthening the list of victims of the sanctions."

A senior official of the ruling Baath Party said the report contained "errors and unfounded accusations."

Mr. Ekeus had "no proof of an Iraqi biological weapons programme," said Saad Kacem Hammudi, a member of the party's foreign affairs committee.

Mr. Hammudi accused Mr. Ekeus of trying to cover up for American and British obstinacy over the embargo.

Raja Al Shawi, a parliamentary deputy, denounced the report as "tendentious" and charged that Mr. Ekeus had been "paid in Kuwait," where he went after his last mission to Iraq.

"The maintenance of the embargo shows the baseness of the West," she said, warning Arab states working with the Americans and British that they would risk suffering the same fate as Iraq.

Deputy Information Minister Nuri Nejm Al Marsumi warned the United States against provoking the anger of the Iraqi people and raised the prospect of Baghdad refusing to cooperate with the U.N.

In an interview with the daily Al-Iraq, he said: "The Iraqi anger and defend their interests."

Many Iraqi citizens reacted with bitterness and concern to the U.N. commission's report, which they said would extend their suffering

Clinton issues annual Passover, Easter greetings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Easter symbolises "the victory of good over evil," while the celebration of Passover should "remind us of the hope that can sustain us as a people," President Bill Clinton said Monday in honouring holy days for Christians and Jews. In a message to "everyone observing Eastern Sunday," Mr. Clinton said: "This day symbolises the victory of good over evil, hope over despair and life over death. Rejoicing in the miracles of Easter, we pledge anew to hold in our hearts Christ's message of peace and joy." "During this time of renewal, let us all thank God for the countless wonders of creation and rededicate ourselves to the common ideals that have made ours a land of infinite blessings," he added. In his Passover statement, Mr. Clinton said: "During this holiday, millions of Jews around the world draw inspiration from the example of the Israelites, who preserved their beliefs, their culture and their dignity throughout the brutal winter of slavery." Passover, commemorating the exodus of the Jews from Egypt, begins Friday night and lasts for eight days. "This year, let the Passover holiday remind us of the hope that can sustain us as a people."

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Briton kills himself after missing out on lottery

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) — A British man shot himself to death when he realised he had failed to register winning lottery numbers, police said. Tim O'Brien, of the northwestern city of Liverpool, might have won a share of Saturday night's £8 million (\$12.8 million) jackpot. The winning numbers, 14, 17, 22, 24, 42 and 47 — were the same as those he had been playing with a friend since Britain's National Lottery was launched late last year. A single ticket may be played for between one and eight draws. Each draw costs £1 (\$1.60). O'Brien's last ticket was good for five draws, the last on April 1, one week earlier. He had forgotten to re-register the numbers. Neighbours heard a single gunshot early Sunday. O'Brien, 51, left behind a wife and two sons. Three other syndicates won the April 8 draw, meaning O'Brien and his friend would have won £2 million (\$3.2 million) had O'Brien bought a new ticket.

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